

REVIEWS

MANDY

SMITH

BIMBO WITH A BRAIN

VOICES

BEHIND

FROM "LA-LA-LA'S" TO MEGASTARS

A Gar

CAN CAPTAIN

STING SAVE THE

PLANET

comics

WEIRD GUYS IN TIGHTS GET SERIOUS THE

HITS

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CBS



• JACKSONS: Michael's clan return to prove that there's more than one Wacko . . . p21

Natalie M

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PUBLISHER Lynn Keddie MANAGING DIRECTOR Mike Sharman. Published weekly by Spotlight

Published weekly by Spottight Published weekly by Spottight Published States and States Road, London NW1 7QZ. Telephone: 387 6611. ISSN 0144-5804. Typeset by Phase Communications and printed by Nene River Press (division of Severn Valley Press Ltd), Peterborough. Colour by CK Litho THANKS TO Steve Masters

 of Severn Valley Press Ltd),
 Peterborough. Colour by Cl Litho
 THANKS TO Steve Masters
 SUBSCRIPTIONS available
 from Punch Subscription
 Services. 8 Grove Ash,
 Bletchley, Milton Keynes.
 Bucks MK1 1BZ; UK rate:
 445 per annum; European
 rate: US\$95 (surface mail).
 For US and Airmail rates,
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address RECORD MIRROR IS A PUNCH PUBLICATION 4 News Neneh Cherry and Rainbirds albums, Texas dates 10 INDEX

The Pop Detective casts his penetrating gaze over the dizzy world of showbiz

LO,000 MANIACS

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Club X' is one door to won't be knowking in

They're all quite Bad a taily BACKING SINGERS

hen the chorus in more to the front line



STING Can a man called Sting really save the planet? 32 rm DANCE

Joyce Sims, James Ingram, June Montana

36 rm REVIEW 45 rpm

This week's singles judged by Tony Beard

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The nation's top 100 singles and albums chart analyse 55 THE TOP OF THE POPS CHART

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С



• THE TRIFFIDS: Perth's favourite flowers talk about cricket and the advantages of being Australian . . . p17



• TOUR OF TEXAS

Texas set out on their most important UK tour yet in July. The happy Glaswegian quartet, whose debut LP 'Southside' has already achieved gold status, play Cambridge Corn Exchange July 5, Bradford St George's Hall 6, Liverpool Royal Court 7, Bristol Studio 9, London Town And Country Club 10, 11, Glasgow Barrowlands 13. Tickets are available from box offices and usual agents and range from £5.50 to £6.50 according to which venue you're after. The band are currently whooping it up in Europe.



SOUL RESURRECTION

Soul II Soul haven't stopped dancing yet despite the success of the massive hit 'Keep On Movin''. They release their single 'Back To Life' this week, it's a remix of the LP version which once again features the unmistakable hallmark of Jazzie B/Nelle Hooper and the vocals of Caron Wheeler. The 12 inch version is backed with 'Back To Life (Jam And The Groove)' and the instrumental 'Back To The Beats'. Soul II Soul's LP, 'Club Classics Volume 1', has just gone gold.



LONE JUSTICE LONER

One of **rm**'s favourite Californian songstresses, **Maria McKee**, releases her debut solo LP on June 5. Maria, who formed and fronted the band Lone Justice for six years, has contributed nine songs to 'Maria McKee', which also includes Richard Thompson's 'Has He Got A Friend For Me'. Other tracks include 'This Property Is Condemned', 'Nobody's Child' and 'Can't Pull The Wool Down (Over The Lamb's Eyes)'. An as yet untitled single is likely to be released later in the month.





SHARP SWEDES

Swedish duo **Roxette**, still enjoying huge success with their single 'The Look', release their debut LP 'Look Sharp!' on June 5. The album is already challenging Abba's own 'Abba The Album' for the accolade of bestselling album in Swedish pop history, and a new single from the pen of Marie Fredriksson and Per Gessle will be released in July. The CD version of 'Look Sharp' includes an extra track, 'I Could Never Give You Up'.

WATCH THE BIRDIES

Berlin-based band **Rainbirds**, who ► featured on a recent **rm** EP with their song 'On The Balcony', release their second LP 'Call Me Easy, Say I'm Strong, Love Me My Way, It Ain't Wrong' on June 5. The LP has already sold 250,000 copies in Europe and the band will be back in the autumn to further promote the record.



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You see, whether you're making love or making condoms, practice makes perfect. And the vast majority of those who use condoms are perfectly happy with Durex.

• TOURS

Londonbeat have lined up a special one-off show at London's Marquee Club on June 10.

Stray Cats prove there's still lead in their pencils with two dates of London's Hommersmith Odeon on June 10 and 11.

Those crazy Cardiacs celebrote the release of their LP 'On Lond And In The Sea' with dates at London Powerhaus June 8, Woolwich Tromshed 9, Sheffield Toke Two 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Manchester International 15, Oxford Co-Op Hall 17, Brighton Zop Club 19, London Dingwalls 21, Aylesbury Civic Centre 23, Dudley JB's 24, Derby Rock House 27, Birminghom Edwords 28 and Bristol Bier Keller 29.

RELEASES

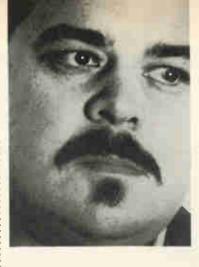
The Bee Gees release their single 'One' on June 5. The title trock from the bays' latest LP, it coincides with the British leg of their first world tour in a decode.

Clive Griffin, the mon who's been threatening to have a hit for some time now, tries (yet) again with the release of the single 'Head Above The Water'

June 5. The flip side is 'By Heart'.

The evergreen Edwyn Collins returns to oction with a solo LP, 'Hope And Despair', released this week, Edwyn's old mate Raddy Frome is featured on the album, from which a single will be taken shorty.

New Orleans favourites the Neville Brothers release their Yellow Moon' single on June S. It's the title track from the boys' current LP ond is backed with a version of the Bob Dylon classic 'With God On Our Side'.



WE LOVE UBU

Pere Ubu, who beat all challengers recently on the 'Going Live' video vote with the excellent 'Waiting For Mary', release the follow-up single on June 5. 'Love Love Love' is taken from the group's latest LP, 'Cloudland', and has been specially remixed by Daniel Miller. The single comes in seven, 12 and CD versions with extra tracks 'Fedora Satellite' and 'Say Goodbye' as well as special Cajun remixes of the A-side. Pere Ubu will be touring later this month, including a London date at the Astoria on June 5.



• The Bros saga that's heid the nation spellbound these past few weeks has finally been settled out of court. Craig Logan had refused the offer of a golden handshake from twins Matt and Luke, reported to have been worth around £300,000, after the bass player's serious illness forced him to quit the group. Craig's barrister told the High Court in London last week that the two sides had reached agreement after lengthy out of court discussions, but no details of the settlement were revealed. Craig, who was in court himself, told reporters he was "delighted it's all over and settled. It's fantastic!" Craig's future plans are still unsure, but it looks sure he will continue his career in some shape or form.

SILVER MACHINE

This week sees the release of the eagerly awaited double LP from FFRR Records featuring such acts as the Cookie Crew, Frankie Knuckles, Simon Harris, D-Mob and Richie Rich. The LP, 'Silver And Gold', features remixes of many of the acts' forthcoming singles and sells for the price of a single LP. Some of the UK acts featured will be performing at Sin at London's Astoria on June 10.

WORLD OF DANCE

Westworld are back with a long awaited follow-up to the likes of 'Sonic Boom Boy' and 'Silvermac' in the shape of 'Dance On', which hits the streets on June 5. The single is backed with 'Crazy Anne' plus the additional 'Dance On And On And On' and 'Break Your Heart' on 12 inch, cassette and CD versions.



KARYN WHITE

The smash U.S. single produced by L.A. & BABYFACE

12" & CD include exclusive version of 'THE WAY YOU LOVE ME'

Only UK date: June 1st, London Hammersmith Odeon



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Calling all Queen fans, here's a competition that's even hotter than the scintillating temperatures around Index towers at present. No doubt most of you have nipped out to grab your copy of 'The Miracle' LP by now, but we've got some special limited edition CDs plus special cassettes plus colour biography booklets to give away housed in their own very attractive 'Miracle' presentation boxes. We've got six of these highly prized Queen mementos to give away absolutely free, and all you have to do to enter is answer the three questions below.

1 What was Queen's first single

a) 'Seven Seas Of Rhye', b) 'Killer Queen', c) 'Keep Yourself Alive'?

2 How many weeks was 'Bohemian Rhapsody' at number one in the British charts in 1975

a) None, b) Six, c) Fourteen?

3 With whom did Queen team up for the single 'Under Pressure'

- : a) Elton John, b) David Bowie, c) Status Quo?
- Send your answers on a postcard to rm 'Queen Competition', Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QZ to arrive by June 12.



stick em up!



1

They may look like leftovers from a Sigue Sigue Sputnik lookalike competition, but New York duo Big Stick have produced one of the grungiest dance tracks of the year. A noisy statement against the ever escalating number of cases of Crack (poor man's cocaine) abuse in the States, 'Crack Attack' is a savage electronic dance anthem, made all the more powerful by the fact that vocalist John Gill's eight-year-old daughter died from taking the drug. Remixed by the FON Force, who brought you Ten City, the Funky Worm and Krush, it's the vocals that help set this apart from records with a similar dancefloor recipe. Coming on like a rampant Sylvester the Cat, at first you think he's singing 'Crackerjack' and have to be physically restrained from shouting it right back at him. So now we know Big Stick's true identity. Leslie Crowther, come on down! (EL)

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is a world tour souvenin





abc 'better world' top ten

1 'La Bamba' Los Phobos 2 'Atlantis Crossing' Rod Stewart 3 'Real Klingon Kid' Deacon Blue 4 'Dalek Of Love' ABC 5 'Barcelona' Freddie Mercury 6 'Heaven Stopped Dancing Yet' Pat & Mick 7 'Paddy McGinty's Goat' Val 'Hala' Doonican 8 'Zero Atmosphere' Russ Abbot 9 'Pump Up The Volume' MARIS 10 'Rock Around The Clock' Bill Haley's Cornet Compiled by the Space Cadets



• FIFTH OF HEAVEN: "now is that a Jumbo or one of those Tristar jobs?"

heaven up here

Fifth Of Heaven are stubbornly refusing to conform. In their role as one of the north of England's most promising young soul/pop bands, the trio of Denise Johnson, Steve Williams and Andy Hickey have stuck to their guns and released their single 'Just A Little More' on their own label despite clamouring cheque book merchants eager to sign them up. Last year Fifth Of Heaven released a limited edition single that quickly became a collectors' item and led the still fledgling outfit to support slots with such luminaries as Alexander O'Neal, Maze and Freddie Jackson. Their sweet, smooch of a single has already begun to tickle the ears of the nation's radio programmers, and if it gets half a chance, you could see the trio on 'Top Of The Pops' sooner rather than later. The fact that Steve and Andy have in their time played with such legends as Ronnie Corbett and Cannon And Ball must surely mean stardom is just around the corner.

Rumblefish have been recommended to you good people in the past once or twice, and not an awful lot has happened to raise the band's profile or bank balance since. If there justice in the world (we'll argue the point another time) the direction Dollar Leave Me' will change all that Am exquisite slice of summary and thes is exactly the sort of moced limit although on an includent label should be pouring fount from your radio at all time of the day Rumblefish are from Ellimitediam, but there's not a maller calle boot in sight here among the lact among ment and effortless vocal of the photoeci Jeremy Paige. There s did but the hint of the Bunnymup at there, but the record deserves to become this summer's 'First Flause Of You', which broke the Lotus Entries few years back. Come on Ramo and any it, you'll love it.



• "'ere, you sure you wouldn't rather be in Danny Wilson?"

pesky varmints

Keep an eye out for Scottish Bluegrass and leather jacket types the **Critter Hill Varmints**. The band have been receiving very favourable reviews for their support slots with the Proclaimers and the Pogues as well as winning over a distinctly chart orientated audience of 2,500 screaming Wet Wet wet and Deacon Blue fans with their straightforward good time sounds. The band are still looking for the right company for that important first vinyl experience, but they have been trekking south recently for selected dates.





competition

OK, OK forget all those Australian pretenders — INXS, Midnight Oil etc. There's only room for one Auzzie band in Index and that's the Go-Betweens right? OK now that that's settled, have we got a fabulous competition for you right on types out there in rm land. As you'll know if you read last week's singles page, the band have just re-released the wondrous 'Streets Of Your Town' single and we've lined up a great CD and T-shirt competition to celebrate their return to these shores. We've got a dozen CDs of the single featuring 'Streets Of Your Town', 'Quiet Heart', 'Bow Down' and 'The House That Jack Kerouac Built'. We've managed to get our hands on the limited edition three inch version of the CD and there are also 12 Go-Betweens T-shirts to accompany the CDs. If you fancy winning one of each — and let's face it who wouldn't — just correctly answer the three questions below.

1 Which Go-Between is pictured having her thigh squeezed by the wacky Robert Forster

- a) Lindy Morrison, b) Amanda Brown, c) Grant McLennan?
- 2 What is the title of the band's most recent LP

a) 'Talulah', b) '16 Lovers Lane' c) 'Diesel And Dust'?

3 Who is your favourite Australian band

a) Racing Cars, b) the Go-Betweens, c) Rolf Harris?

Send your answers on a postcard to **rm** 'Go-Betweens CD Competition', Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QZ to arrive by closing date June 12.



great pop impressionists of our time no. 21 maire brennan of clannad

Here we see the multitalented Maire taking time out from the band's recent triumphant Royal Albert Hall gig to give us her rib tickling impression of both Sheila Grant of 'Brookside' fame and Sarah Brightman of Andrew Lloyd Webber fame at one and the same time. Let's hear it for Maire. Next week Lionel Richie and TV's Nicholas Lyndhurst, aka Rodney Trotter, give us their hilarious Pepsi & Shirley skit. this e Ever Malco comp while your Ever run ir backs got e 64 fo then defini one c ever progr your Whett TV a O

CONTINUED

Ever fancied wheeling and dealing in this exciting pop business of ours?

Ever fancied yourself as the next Malcolm McLaren, playing record companies off against each other while keeping your young band on your side and raking in the dosh? Ever envied those celebs and their run ins with the gutter press and their backstage naughties? Well, if you've got either Spectrum or Commodore 64 format computers at your disposal, then 'Rockstar Ate My Hamster' is definitely the game for you. Hailed as one of the funniest computer games ever produced, it even has a unique programme that enables you to hear your band rehearsing and decide whether they're ready for that crucial TV appearance yet.

'Rockstar Ate My Hamster' has bee put together by David and Richard Darling, two of the country's most successful young entrepreneurs



whose Code Masters company now has an annual turnover in excess of £1,000,000 and employs 120 freelance programmers. Phew, Thatcher's children or what. Now if only they'd slipped in a few caring, thoughtful, dedicated music journalists, we could have given them all the advice they needed.



the story behind the singles title No. 13 FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM

"Well it's like 'Psychonaut Lib III' isn't it? It's that feeling when you've done your three hundredth gig wearing the same shitty coat covered in all this muck that got left over from some bleedin' King Kurt gig back in the Seventies. It's the ringing in your ears from the punch that your mum gives ya when she catches you trying to sneak these filthy trousers into the Hotpoint along with her new curtains. It's the desperate looks from travelling shampoo salesmen when they turn up at Neph Towers. It's a combination of all these and more, the feeling that makes you pick up your guitar, turn on the dry ice machine, slip in the special V style lizard contact lenses and create a work of art. That --- is 'Psychonaut Lib III' as we see it."

Next week Pat Kane explains the inspiration behind the hit 'lolanthe'.



West Country hopefuls Love Jungle return this week with another competent slice of gentlely breezing pop of the kind that has people falling over themselves when it's made by the likes of 10,000 Maniacs. Angela's fragile, leaping voice pours over a gentle guitar backdrop that echoes Johnny Marr's 'Boy With The Thorn In His Side' to a barely discernable degree, but this isn't a copyist band in any sense of the word. We Index types reckon sooner or later Love Jungle will be given the time and money to fulfill their potential. They're not quite there yet, but they're damned near.



earbenders

Andy Strickland 'Paradise' Inner City (10 Records LP)

'Don't Leave Me' Rumblefish (Summerhouse 45) 'Lazyitis' Happy Mondays (Factory 45)

Tim Nicholson

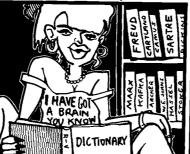
'Raw Like Sushi' Neneh Cherry (Circa LP)

- 'Hope And Despair' Edwyn Collins (Demon LP)
- 'The Big E' A Certain Ratio
- (forthcoming A&M LP)

GREAT POP THINGS -> THE TRANSVISION VAMP STORY: SHE TRIED NOT TO USE HER SEX By Colin B. Morton & Chuck Death



Transvision Vamp consists of a woman called wendy James and 3 or 4 blokes. (we are not sure how many as they don't get in the photos very often. Mostly there are just pictures of wendy refusing to use her objects)

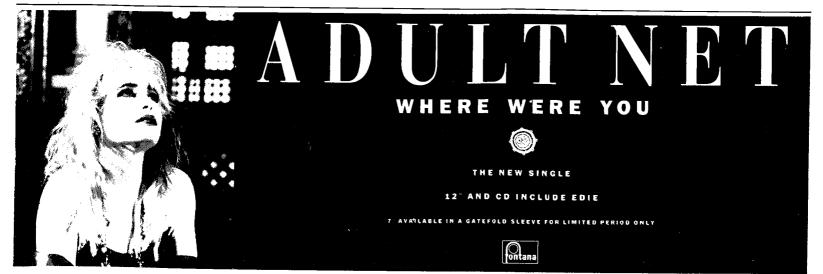


The word TRANSVISION does not appear it is a little known fact about TRAN-in the dictionary, but if it did it would syision vamp that they have also come between TRANSVESTITE and made records, one of which was quite TRANSYLVANIA. VAMP means "an impro-vised chordal accompaniment or "a woman who utterly refuses to be a sex - object (honest!)".....



TV K RADIO TINGS INSIDE RUT NOT RADIO 3 COS WERNA ARE TOUTHK NURSES THEENEMY WITHIN INSIDE A PIC OF A GIRLIE WITHOUT MUCH ON/EAST COSSING $\langle 0 \rangle_{1}$

All Wendy's efforts to be a non-sexist object proved to be in vain due to the "Gutter press" who cared not a jot for her artistic integrity while giving lavish famous last year or maybe the year her artistic integrity while giving lavish before. It had a video of Wenay re- coverage to the musical creativity of such fusing to be used as a sex-object. "male" bands as Bros. It's all wrong you know





A weekly cut out and keep guide to the world of pop, TV, sport, shopping and high finance compiled by the Pop Detective

EXCLUSIVE PETER O'TOOLE INTERVIEW

Peter, who are you?

"Who Am I? Who Am I? My dear boy, I am Peter O Toole."

That's a nice suit you're wearing. "Got to keep up, got to keep up."

Can you tell us a witty and amusing anecdote?

"I was out in the desert dear boy, it must have been 120 degrees. Bernard Breslaw, poor man he couldn't stand it, had to go back to Grimsby. If it wasn't for Anita Harris I'd never have been an actor. Of course, she had beautiful legs in those days." Peter O'Toole, I thank you.

just can't get used to this tropical weather can you? Maybe it's all those beds that they're burning in Australia destroying the ozone layer. Perhaps it's all those pop star limousines pumping vast amounts of carbon monoxide into the atmosphere? Who knows, something is making the weather go cock-a-hoop and that's for sure.

The environmentalists say that Blackpool is going to be under the sea in 20 years' time because of the Channel tunnel making the sea level rise or something. Anyway it's a grave pity, I went up there last week and was amazed to discover what a 'happening' place it was. I checked out Lennie Bennett's show on the North Pier — what a laugh. Tickets for the show were swapping hands for as much as $\pounds 1.25$ outside the theatre and many a pop star in Blackpool for the annual works day out had a hard time getting in. Pat Kane, for example, had a right set to with a ticket tout complaining that they were ripping off ordinary working class punters. Elsewhere, Cyndi Lauper tripped off the kerb after coming off the helter skelter, she fell into a heap and suffered a twisted ankle. Everyone gave her a wide berth and ignored her plight — they probably

thought she was some inebriated American bag lady or something Sorry about that it's the heat. Some real stuff **Bananarama** had so much trouble selling tickets for their show in Brighton that they lared a bi plane to fly along the sealront advertising the gig Skinny, nicest lady in pop, not getting diverged micro-diet enthusiast **Yazz** was spotted digging the avant garde grooves of **A Certain Ratio** in steamy London last week **Debbie Gibson** will have her own brand of perfumed body spray (called Electric Youth) in the shops for Christmas...

The blancmange in the **Beautiful** South's video is supposed to be **Rick** Astley (more details next week). Singer **Paul Heaton**, incidentally, has recertly taken to smoking large cigars "for the pose", very trendy we must say!

Hang on to your hats, here's an interesting fact — last week's **Alyson Williams** cover shot was taken by Joe Shutter, we forgot to tell you and he got a bit angry apparently, poor lad, he supports Spurs you know: Oh well we can't all support the greatest team in history can we? Er, Tranmere Rovers actually

The V&A Museum in London were all set to call a lecture on Australian culture



THEBABBLE TIME TUNNEL Long ago (high on a mountain in Mexico), there were two brothers. Influenced by the

wonderful harmonies of Paul Young they decided to form a group and become the biggest stars since A Flock OI Seaguils. One thing stood in their way — their image. For years, they toyed with the dapper Modern Romance look complete with stripey narrow ties and flared Chris Waddle har. Then one day they met a man who smoked big cigars and their dreams came true

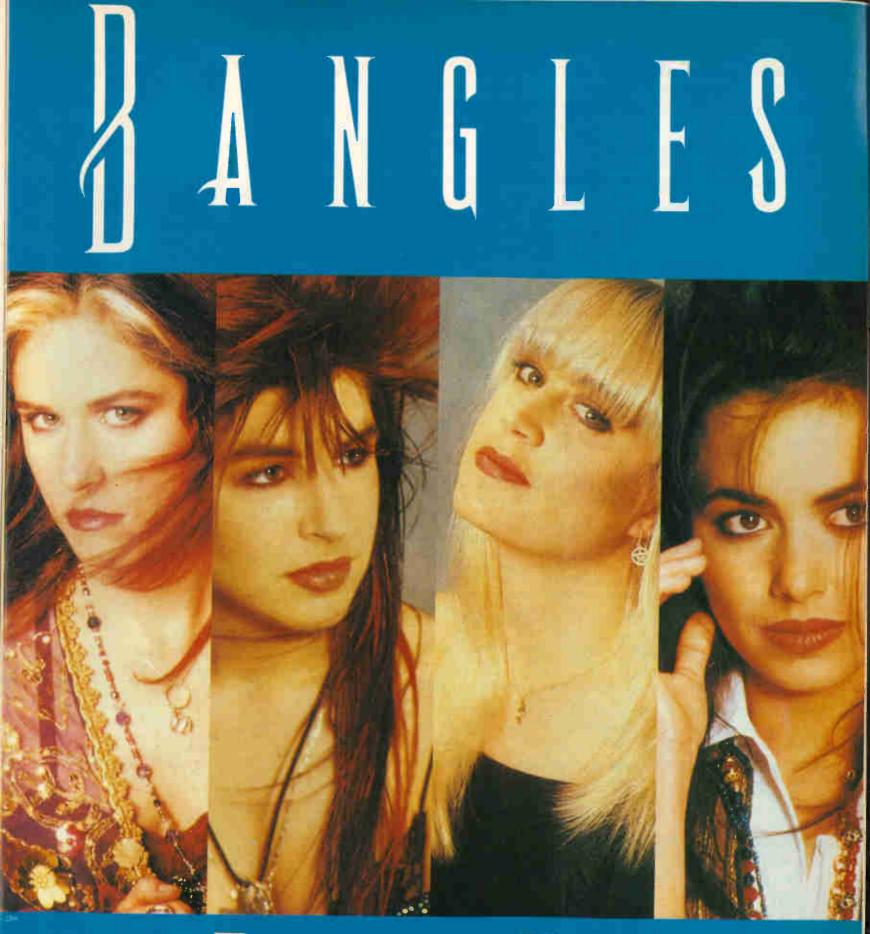
From Vogue To Mnogue when Kylie's management heard about it and stopped them. "We don't want Kylie moved up in left wing propagatida." they said En? Babble scandals Badio Cs. Nicky Campbell recently read out the Stock Aitken Waterman dyning dictionary that we gave away free with Babble two months ago Good to know they've got their fingers on the pulse and are keeping abreast of the pop world. Catch up guys ... On a recent satellite TV show Wendy James was asked about the recent Babble exclusives on her life. They made it all up." she seethed. "I've never met Una Stubbs in my life." Truth is we have to make stories about Wendy up because she's 50 boring; contrary to popular belief she is not a rock in roll rebel. When Wendy and Roland aren't playing darts they stay at home and watch nature programmes on

telly," a close friend told ts, "Occasionally they invite people round for didner parties." Oh well, that's revolution baby. This week's mystery: ff **Morrissey** is so popular how come you can buy his singles for 69p in Woolworths two weeks after they've been released?

Carol Decker was spotted in Ealing High Street this week looking at novelty wrist watches, she was wearing an **rm** T-shirt (fame at last) ... **Rowan Atkinson** has taken to visiting greasy London rock venue Dingwalls ... **Elvis Costello** spied in Hyde Park sunbathing ... **Enya** visited the Selfridges food hall while in the capital, her purchase an interesting half pound of mature cheddar

... Tom Jones gave his minders the slip and sneaked out of his posh hotel in the Midlands a couple of weeks back to buy some fish and chips ... Mick Hucknall of Simply Red told a hairdresser that he hadn't washed his hair for three years ... the daughters of Roger 'James Bond' Moore have started a group with a couple of friends — they're called Fish Boy, which is quite a good name I thought. Oh well, it's pitiful, no snogging, no drugs stories, no showbiz parties ... I'm slipping. Er, pass the calamine lotion.





BE WITH YOU

THE NEW SINGLE

• 3 TRACK 12" • 3 TRACK CD

CBS

LOOKOUT FOR BANGLES ON YOUR T.V. SOON

BANGS 6

Natalie Merchant, of Simon Bates' favourite band 10,000 Maniacs, likes riding her bike into the sunset, says it's her duty to try and save the world and once even thought of sueing rm. As the band release their mellow but hard hitting single, 'Trouble Me', Tony Beard troubles her for a chat



THE ART OF INTERVIEWS

"Record Mirror? You're the ones who printed my picture with a caption saying, 'I'm so nervous I have to go to the toilet every 10 minutes' above it. I thought of sueing for misrepresentation"

Natalie Merchant, the 10,000th Maniac, sits perched on the edge of her seat, toying with a cheese sandwich and wondering if she can persuade me to stand in for her before the cameras of MTV. It's been a long day and all Natalie wants to do is ride her bike into the sunset.

"There are some nice folding ones in Next. Maybe I can hire one to get me away from here."

Interviews may be a chore to all but the most self-obsessed rock star, but at least they offer a chance to talk to people, albeit through a journalist. Technically, Natalie's here to tell me about their new single, 'Trouble Me', and album, 'Blind Man's Zoo', but we don't even mention it. Which is how it should be. "If I have the potential to speak to

a lot of people I feel I should say something worthwhile rather than just promote a piece of vinyl. But I don't want to talk about my boyfriend either because that's not important. I don't sing about trivial issues, so why talk about them?

"I'm completely dedicated to educating people. When you have someone's attention and you have something on your mind then tell them. Music is more than just entertainment or escapism, the possibilities of moving people are endless."

THE VOICE OF GOD

Earlier last year Natalie Merchant

introduced Tracy Chapman to these shores with a showcase gig at the Donmar Warehouse in London's Covent Garden. It's fitting that the two should be so entwined, because both deliver their pointed social commentaries, rather than lectures, within the framework of what the yuppies are calling 'modern folk'. Now that might sound like a woefully outdated ideal, particularly when TV show themes and the frivolous fun ethic hog the chart light, but it's one that is gradually gaining results in terms of sales. And, it would seem, souls

"Every day I get letters telling me how we've changed people's lives. That doesn't mean they've found Jesus or something, it's just the way music makes me feel. If I'm unhappy then I'll put on Aretha Franklin and it seems like I'm hearing the voice of God. She can make me laugh or cry and the world would be a poorer place without her, yet she's only a singer, not a brain surgeon or anything. Music has this terrific potential, but nobody tries to fulfill it."

GIRLS DON'T JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Don't the Maniacs ever get tired of caring for the world?

"I don't think about it like that. It's my duty really."

You must relax, surely?

"All I need, apart from my bicycle, are my books and my writing. I lead a very simple life. Jamestown" (10,000 Maniacs' New York home) "is not the happiest place; there's a lot of alcoholism and unemployment there.

"That must make us seem incredibly po-faced, but we're not. We do care about what's going on, so we sing about it But we also laugh a lot. When you're sleeping in the rain by the side of a dirt track after a gig that no-one came to, you have to smile, otherwise you'd fight.

"What's my favourite joke? I only have one and I've forgotten it. I tend to leave the room when they're being told. I prefer spontaneous humour, like slipping on the ice in winter. Whenever I'm on my butt in the snow you'll find me laughing."

BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS ...

"I don't want to be taken lightly, but I'm not some kind of mystic creature. I take others' lives more seriously than my own. I keep thinking about the blacks in South Africa and how lucky I am in my position. It's my obligation to try and repay people. I have to remain sincere about what's important to me.

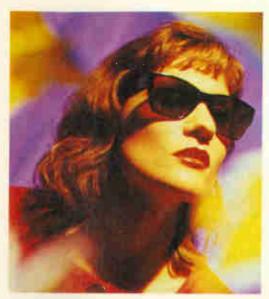
"I'm not a peace child and I'm not a reactionary trying to re-live the Sixties. We don't write protest songs, they're just an attempt to draw some attention to what is wrong in society. "Is it naïve to hope that one day

there'll be an end to the madness? It's really sick not to have any hope that it'll end. If you think that, then why have children? You'd be insane for wanting to bring them into the world."

Worthy sentiments, but easily mocked in the cynical Eighties.

"Mmm," she agrees. "It upsets me to think I have to share a planet with these cynics. It hurts when women mock me. I still believe women should nurture society to keep it safe from man's insanity. Then I look at Margaret Thatcher and realise the world is in a very sorry state."

MANIAC ON THE LOOSE



T'RIFFIC

From the land of kangers, tinnies, fast bowlers with handle bar moustaches and 'dial-a-sailor' comes the magical, surreal sound of **The Triffids**. David Giles investigates and learns how to 'park a tiger'

TRIFFIDS

hen was the last time you saw a band with as much variety musically, visually and personalitywise as the Triffids? You can't remember, can you? That's probably because the Triffids draw on more diverse influences than almost any other rock group, and look like the strangest collection of musicians you could possibly assemble (that is, apart from Goodbye Mr Mackenzie!). They are Western Australia's finest export since Swan Lager.

The central figure of the band is David McComb, the beanpole singer and chief songwriter. Keyboardist Jill Birt takes over lead vocals on certain songs, including the current single 'Goodbye Little Boy', while one of the highlights of the Triffs' live set is the country 'n' western classic 'Legend In My Own Time' featuring the vocals of one 'Evil' Graham Lee, who contributes pedal steel guitar to most of the other songs. Then there's the tall and very affable drummer Alsy MacDonald, guitarist Martyn P Casey and David's brother Rob, who helps out on a variety of guitars and harmonica, and is the most good-humoured and voluble of the lot. You could say he enjoys a "tinny"-or seven. "Oh, look!" he gasps, as we pass a large puddle of vomit in the middle of a Nottingham street. You know, they call that parking a tiger in Australia? 'Cos it's striped and coloured..."

The Triffs' music is as varied and kaleidoscopic as the characters that make up the band. One minute they're doing a country song, then they'll be thrashing the life out of their guitars; in places they recall the Doors and the Bunnymen. Some of their newer compositions involve the use of a drum machine — 'Falling Over You' has a verse that is basically a white rap, only one that remains firmly rooted in Australian vernacular without trying to emulate LL Cool J.

David: "Usually you get Triffid fans who are surprised by the fact that we like some other groups which wouldn't normally be associated with the Triffids' form of music, the Pet Shop Boys, for instance — we've played 'Rent' live before — but people have to understand that we've been going 10 years now, and I wouldn't be happy in a band that just played one style and allowed it to become a trademark. The style to me isn't that important; it's really the aim, the attitude, or the mood of a song that we go for."

Rob: "We're very tolerant of each other's tastes in music; the joke is that Graham is a big fan of country music — we're influenced by each other's tastes, and our ideas go beyond pop music, to films and books."

Perth, where the Triffids grew up, is a real outpost of a city, right on the west coast of Australia and surrounded by desert. It takes three days by road to get to the next town! It seems to give off an air of laziness, which is reflected in the lyrics. The opening track on the current 'Black Swan' LP is called Too Hot To Move, Too Hot To Think', and in 'Bottle Of Love' there's a line that goes: "Well, nothing much happens here/Not much gets done/But you get to like it." 'Sod It, Let's Go To The Beach' would make a great Triffs song title.

Rob: "Perth is so far away from the rest of Austalia, you may as well be in another country anyway! You feel kind of isolated..."

Half of the band's time is spent in Perth; the rest of the time they live in London. "The main thing that upsets our lives," says Alsy, is not knowing where we're going to be at any one time. Fortunately, the schedule for the rest of the year is already planned in advance." On the other hand, it gives them a nice cultural balance.

Rob: "It's funny — I can watch 'Neighbours' here but I can't watch it in Australia. There, it's too natural, it's a parody of Australian life, but when I'm away it's entertaining for its colloquialisms alone. But not all the band will agree on that ..."

oaps are just one example of the way Australia has been influenced by the States.

David: "Perth is regularly inundated by an influx of warships from America that come to protect us. While they're in the port of Fremantle the whole city gets competely over-run, and you have 'dial-asailor' services, and all the nightclubs are full of these funky American people!"

But at least the winters reverberate to the sound of willow smacking leather — although Rob is the only sports fan among them. "I asked Merv Hughes" (Aussie fast bowler with the amazing handlebar moustache who will be on your tellies all summer) "if he wanted to have his photo taken with us," he recalls. "Apparently the rest of the Austalian team were asking, why does Merv have all the fun? Why's he been asked? So I guess they think it's very glamorous to be involved with a rock band."

Oh it is! There's no more glamorous sight in pop than David McComb singing while clouds of bubbles waft down on to his head at the end of the Triffs' live set. The bubbles accompany the song 'Fairytale Love' and succeed in evoking a magical, surreal atmosphere.

Graham: "That song was described in a Dutch magazine as 'f***ing in topsy-turvy land', so the bubbles are quite symbolic in a way..."

Lock up your children! The Night Of The Killer Plants is nigh...





MANDY SMITH

Mandy Smith is over half an hour late for our appointment, but for once I'm not complaining. Her press officer has requested that all questions referring to her fiancé Bill Wyman are eliminated, which, of course, takes care of most of the interview. Since we are to be discreetly chaperoned, I am forced to comply and hastily compile new questions.

Mandy arrives, eventually, complaining that she is feeling rather under the weather. She doesn't look it. All peaches and cream and lacey frills, she's the healthiest looking invalid I've ever encountered. Offering me a limp hand to shake, she explains that she has just had a jab in preparation for a promotional tour of the Far East.

"I took one look at the size of the needle and collapsed. My arm's killing me now.' Well, if she will be a pop star then

this is what she must learn to endure . . .

SI SI JE SUIS UN ROCK STAR

The notion of Mandy Smith — antique collector and tabloid starlet — in a serious singing career has been a bit hard to swallow until now. Not so across the rest of the world where Mandy's career has been greeted with the kind of enthusiasm once generated by the young Madonna. Number ones in places as disjointed as Japan, Italy and Turkey have become commonplace over the last couple of years.

So what's gone wrong here? After all, she's no better or worse a singer than the Kylies or Sabrinas who effortlessly waltz into the charts. Mandy, rather predictably, blames the press.

"People are so preoccupied with the papers over here," she says rubbing her sore arm. "The average person doesn't know anything about the music business, so they believe mostly what they read. Also some people are used to make an example of, and I think I was one of those. I



SMITH AND. .

got picked on.

"Like being a young girl' going out with someone older. I think they decided to pick on me and made me out to be a wild child. But I never went into clubs and stripped off. I've never done anything outrageous, that's why I've always found it odd."

You might choose to point out that, as far as the masses are concerned, a 13-year-old going out with a man 33 years her senior could be construed as outrageous. But why antagonise her? Against all expectations, she's a very likeable person. Forget the physical aspects, and the tedious allegations of her sulky thumb-sucking behaviour. If anything she possesses an amiable self-confidence way beyond her 19 years.

What does she think her strong points are?

"I'm definitely a strong person," she says. Even if I encountered the press harassment that I did two or three years ago, I'd overcome it because I've been through it once and survived. Sound like an old woman don't I?

"I think it's good to experience things — and relationships when you're young as well. I'm not suggesting everyone should do what I did, but for me it was a good thing."

If in the future she found herself with a 13-year-old daughter, would she mind her going out with an old(er) man?

"I was very mature at 13. So I think it would depend on what she was like, but I'd be an understanding mother."

I WAS WORKING AS A WAITRESS There's something desperately ironic about Mandy's choice of song this time around ('Don't You Want Me' from her favourite Human League LP 'Dare'). She too was picked out, shaken up and turned into something new. Now, five years later, she's got the world at her feet. It may not be exactly as she planned, but it's unlikely she'd be where she is today without that publicity boost.

"I'm taking singing and dancing lessons now," she says, reassuringly aware of her limitations. I know I haven't got an amazing voice, but I can control it a lot better now. I know how to reach high notes and I know I could sing all those songs on the album better. I cringe at some of them!"

You were quoted recently as saying that you were attracted to ugly men. Is this true?

"The question that was asked of me was 'Are all the men that you like tall, dark and handsome?'... And I said that the men I like in my mind would be tall, dark and skinny, but the nicest men I normally meet are the ones that aren't so attractive. They're usually the most genuine."

A carefully timed cough from our escort is enough to inform us that we're never likely to discover which category her fiancé falls into.



Even though she's marrying Bill Wyman life can still be tough for Mandy Smith. Story Chris Twomey

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NTXR 114

don't answer that door



Continuing our series of musings on the madness of modern living by the Moore Man. This week: the infuriating, embarrassing, vomit-inducing, cushionthrowing spectacle they call Channel 4's 'Club X'

it's TSP Moore

here is a certain time in TV scheduling which programmers loosely describe as the "Getting Back Pissed From The Pub" slot.

Ideally, shows in this slot should be mindless, fast-moving yet easy going, and with a mild sedative effect. To my mind, none of these criteria are met by two painfully avant garde performers hurling themselves around the stage in attempted unison yelling "Pretty difficult! Pretty difficult!" for 10 minutes.

This type of behaviour is, instead, likely to provoke the tired and emotional viewer into projectile vomiting or spontaneous bouts of hooligan behaviour, and is why Channel 4's 'Club X' is surely doomed to failure.

irst up last week was an item about 'Carmen', described by one guest critic as "pain, blood and death" — nouns that were to spring to mind constantly over the next hour and a half. An embarrassed opera singer ("thees

place is very strange..."), is wound up by the deftly professional Martina: "Wow! Er, dangerous! What was she

singing about, Jonathan?" A very large woman appears and

clumsily recites a one-liner so irritating it makes you regret not saving that cushion you threw at the Nescafé advert when it appeared in the last commercial break. Five cushions wouldn't have been enough for the woman on a train who managed to say "tired of London, tired of life" at least three times. No doubt viewers from Cleethorpes were interested in that bit.

I'm unable to supply the final total as I had to turn over at this point and soothe my simmering brain with a few minutes of the type of full-volume white noise kindly provided around the clock by Channel II. hen there was Chaka Khan. Not only did our Chaka's freshly

acquired gargantuan bulk bring added meaning to her rendition of 'I'm Every Woman', but her ensuing on stage interview with the previously unruffled Murray Boland was a warning against the dangers of live televison that was almost as potent as Dickie Davies' immortal reminder on 'World Of Sport' about "our coverage of next week's fifth round cock sucker".

As ever, the camera operators seem eager to compound the presenter's humiliation, with Murray's sweaty, twitching face filling the screen for a full 15 seconds after he has abandoned, defeated, his futile attempts to extract a relevant word from Ms Khan.

The message is clear: get Desmond Lynam in as anchorman or sink without trace. Tired of 'Club X'? Tired of eating your video.

"She kept a hold of love, the only thing he never robbed her of..."

ANDY PAWLAK

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"A lot of people don't understand what happened to us before we became the Jackson Five. My mother and father sacrificed a lot"



• (L to R) JANET, LaToya and Michael . . . hold on, that can't be right . . .

eet the new Waltons. The Jacksons are making a TV series. "Goodnight Jermaine"... "Goodnight LaToya"... "Goodnight Tito"... "Goodnight Bubbles"...

Ah, it takes you back to the days of the J5 cartoon series. This group was so big, they even received the highest accolade in rock: their own weekly page in rm. Now the first family of soul are back and there's talk of a media assault . . . new single, new album, TV mini-series, feature film, tour — they're doing the lot, and brother Jermaine says it's about time there was some action down at 2300 Jackson Street.

"The Jacksons have had two albums out in nine years. This record tells a lot about where the family comes from. '2300 Jackson Street' is the address where we were born in Gary, Indiana. It pretty much tells that we're still a family, there's no glitter, no flash ... there's also a six-hour mini-series coming, with my mother and father telling their life story on national television, which is going to start production this summer. We have children portraying us and my sister Rebbie's portraying my mother.

"It takes place with my mother and father meeting, the Jackson Five story within that and it's going to end with the 'Victory' tour, so it won't be about Michael Jackson or Jermaine Jackson, it's about family. It's going to be weird though — my son Jermaine Jr is going to play me and Brandon's going to be Michael, the kid from 'Moonwalker'. "A lot of people don't understand what happened to us before we became the Jackson Five. My mother and father sacrificed a lot. They did everything, bought us instruments when they could haye been taking vacations, guided us, made us rehearse ... they started me singing ballads, they gave fne Andy Williams albums to listen to and that's how I learned to sing ballads."

Jermaine's also been writing a movie of the Jacksons' story which he hopes will start shooting in the autumn, and he confesses that film-making is now even more of a passion for him than music. They're planning a tour for next year too; in the meantime, '2300 Jackson Street' is a pretty solid album to come back with, teaming Jermaine, Jackie, Randy and Tito with hot producers like Teddy Riley and LA & Babyface, the pair who wrote and produced the first single 'Nothin' (That Compares 2U)'.

"When they write a song for us they try to think Jacksons. Remember when vc used to do 'ooh-ooh-ooh '" (Add as many "oohs" as you like, he's singing the intro of 'Little Bitty Pretty One'). "That's like the same 'oohs' we're doing on this new single! And all the little three-part harmonies and backgrounds, they had that in mind."

The title track has the whole clan crammed on — Janet, Rebbie, LaToya, Marlon and their 16 nieces and nephews . . . oh, and that Michael fellow. "It wasn't that we didn't want him on anything else or that he didn't want to, we just didn't ask and he didn't ask either. We just wanted him on that one song.

"We feel really good about this record, I think we're six or seven singles deep. The timing's very important. Michael's success has been so strong, when he releases an album it hangs around for a *long* time, so we had to wait, we don't like releasing it on top of each other. Then you had Janet... so we pretty much said 'this is the Jacksons' time, let's concentrate on the family'."

It's only the Jackson Four, because Marlon decided not to be a part of the basic group. "We wanted Marlon back, but we respect the fact that he wanted to try the solo thing once more. But still the door is open for him. We knew it was going to be the four of us, we said "if we can't put our heads together and get a hit record, with all the years we've been in the business, then we don't need to be in it."

Jermaine's still signed as a solo artist to Arista and put his own album on hold to do this one, and half-an-hour of listening to him talking about this family affair made me glad I wasn't desperately muckraking for Jackson scandal. They really don't seem to have a problem about Michael's millions.

"Michael's very fortunate because he's had his independence and freedom to do what he wanted to do. He's a true natural talent, but he had the record company behind him. We just have to work hard the way he did and just *want* it."

Hold on to your mugs of cocoa, the Jacksons are all talking to each other again and after their reunion album, '2300 Jackson Street', they're even planning a six-hour mini series on the history of the Jackson clan. Will Bubbles the chimp be putting in a guest appearance wonders Paul Sexton?



• So this one's Michael then?





GREAT BACKING SINGER, BUT NOW THESE SINGERS ARE

ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. FIONA AUSTIN

TALKS TO CARON WHEELER WHOSE SULTRY VOCALS FIRED UP SOUL IL SOUL'S RECENT HIT 'KEEP ON

MOVIN" AND WHO'S CONSTANTLY IN DEMAND Garon Wheeler, Julia Fordham, Whitney Houston and Mica Paris ... What do they all have in common? ... A clue? ... 'Back-tofront'! OK ... Give in? ... These girls were at one stage all backing singers, now no longer so, but making a career 'up front' as lead vocalists, launched into the limelight by production teams adopting them, or purely by just making the step forward and letting it all loose for solo success.

The 'stripped to the bone' sound of the recent chart toppin' 'Keep On Movin'' was the first time we were made aware of Caron Wheeler's soulfully toasted up warm, husky vocals. Caron has, however, been around for a long while. We may not have been aware of her but if taken away we most certainly would have missed her. It would be a case of 'notice by absence', as she has for the past seven years been part of the successful backing trio Afrodiziak.

Afrodiziak are three 'sisters' — Caron, Claudia Fontaine and Naomi Thompson. They are no longer together, but are still very close — "we are always on the phone helping each other out in our new careers".

It was the closeness they had together that shone through in their harmonies and made them so successful and very much in demand by a far and wide reaching variety of artists ... musicians ranging from Phil Collins to Howard Jones, Alexander O'Neal, Elvis Costello and the Jam before they split up.

"One of the most memorable jobs we did was working with the Special AKA for the Nelson Mandela concert, 'Free Nelson Mandela'. It was really great to be together for such a song, the day was just such a buzz — we felt honoured as it was all so spiritual."

acking is not easy by any means. "You have to be versatile, you don't just do 'oooh, la la la ...' you need to be flexible, to have a good ear, to stylize and put your voice into different shapes and forms. It is good training for yourself though, as you can, depending on how much you've worked, do everything from rock to reggae. But then again, being able to do all those things makes you spoilt for choice when you do finally decide to go solo.

The move from backing is, however, far from simple. "It is hard to bridge the gap. You work for a lot of people but a minimal number offer you something to do yourself; after a while you start getting a bit frustrated. The problem is that as a backing vocalist you are not allowed to really let loose on someone else's material. You have to tone down your voice so you don't show up the lead singer.

"The irony is you're working within the industry you want to be in but you're not showing what you can really do."

For Mica Paris, the move from the backing limbo of relative faceless fame to the full blown limelight was through working with Mark Rogers of Hollywood Beyond. This became a springboard to working with the Style Council's bass player Paul Powell. From there, with a little help from English soul singer Paul Johnson, Mica stepped out from behind the shadow of the stars to her own success.

With Caron it was different. In her case it was the infamous Soul II Soul posse that hit upon her and produced a track around her. It landed Caron top billing in what was said to be "simply the strongest slice of mellowgroove soul to emerge from these shores". Not only did it launch Caron, but also helped Soul II Soul to receive the wide acclaim that had so far eluded them.

Caron loved working with Soul II Soul, she felt their set-up gave people on the street a chance and that they were "constructive — great"! Apart from working with names, Caron also enjoys helping out with people on the up. One of her favourites to look out for is a band called Stress. A more well known act, but again "someone doing something different" is Roachford. She likes the edge they have given to their music which a lot of black people have shied away from in the past, for fear of nonacceptance. Caron, it appears, is attracted to working with musicians that have that little extra bit of 'je ne sais quoi' — individuality — to offer.

This attitude worked well with Soul II Soul and the results showed in their chart success which has encouraged them to team up once again. You can hear the full strength of her vocals on the Soul II Soul album, 'Club Classics Vol I', just released. Doors are definitely opening for Caron's rich voice to stand on its own now and, being creative, she can also start to indulge in her other pursuits — song writing, arranging and vocal production. Her mark is definitely going to be felt.

A position that was once one of frustration — talent in evidence but not fully 'tapped' — is now proving to be the opposite. Record companies are recognising that backing is a more than good grounding for a singer. It is becoming a good recommendation and stepping stone to extending a well developed professional base.

The increasing number of success stories are fuelling those with ambition and the just rewards are coming to those who have persevered. With Caron, it was obvious with such ambition as hers that the back seat was not to be occupied for too much longer. She has made the move from 'back to front', working alongside bands — not behind them. Her next step is standing 'up there' commanding an audience that is all her own. Who'd bet against her succeeding?

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As Fuzzbox fill the charts with the glow of their 'Pink Sunshine', the call for the 'new Grumbleweeds' to have their own TV series grows ever louder. Tim Nicholson signs the petition and Steve Double puts them in the picture

WE'VE GOT A PERSONALITY AND WE'RE **GONNA USE IT**

For the first time since the days of Haircut 100 and Madness, there is a group in the charts who seem tailormade for the wood and glass box in the corner of your room. The Monkees did it, the Partridge Family did it, the Osmonds and the Jackson Five did it, Marc Bolan did it, the Bay City Rollers did it, even Undetones understudies the Moondogs did it. Now the four freshly-groomed faces of Fuzzbox seem poised to star in their own TV series... with only one minor obstacle:

Maggie: "Everyone's always saying that we should have our own television show, and I agree with them. Everyone except the people who make television shows. If anyone would like to suggest it to ITV or BBC we'd be only too willing to oblige."

The range of talents is certainly there for Fuzzbox to at least become the new Grumbleweeds. Jo's skill at voice mimmicry, matched with Tina's remarkable dance impressions, are a force to be reckoned with. As Jo ploughs through the entire 'Eastenders' cast, followed by a united Fuzzbox impression of Ali (altogether now, "Money, money, don't talk to me about money... woman.)," Tina treats us to her versions of the dance

steps of Sheena Easton, Holly Johnson, Guns 'N Roses (with the aid of a bandana) and the Reynolds Girls (with Tina as Aisling and Jo as Linda).

Meanwhile, Vicki remains aloof, slipping in the odd barbed comment, and Maggie's constant prattle is always entertaining. Plenty for the comedy sketch pads of Barry Cryer and or John Junkin there. So, readers, letters to Anne Robinson at the ready, as the campaign for Fuzz on the Box starts here.

SOAPBOX

PRISONER

One of Fuzzbox's qualifications for their own show is their passion for TV and, in particular, the soapy variety. Their mastery of the 'Eastenders' board game that rm presented to the band, was a thing to behold, as they quickly slipped into character and treated us to a medley of traditional East End songs. They also proved masters of Cockney rhyming slang. Maggie com-plaining of feeling a little 'ironmongery', having had nothing to eat that day.

Top of their soap list is the cult Australian show set in a women's prison, 'Prisoner -- Cell Block H', about which they can go on for hours.

Jo: "It's simply the best programme on telly."

"Everyone's always saying that we should have our own TV show, and I agree with them"



"Bobby Davro's made a career out of crap impressions, so why shouldn't we?"



Tina: "When you first watch it it's so awful that you develop a liking for it because it's so awful. But then you just get to a point where it takes over your life."

Jo: "Your life just begins to revolve around 11.30 on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening." Tina: "Stefan Dennis from 'Neighbours' was in it. He

Lina: "Stefan Dennis from 'Neighbours' was in it. He played Doreen's boyfriend. He had horrible, horrible hair, all curly like."

Jo: "Our favourite character was Vera, the Chief Warden, she was such a fascist."

Maggie: "The one that replaced her is worse, though."

Jo: "And she's crooked."

Tina: "And she's a sadist, and a murderer!"

Maggie: "We don't know that she's a murderer."

Tina: "But it was her gloves." (?)

They continue in this vein for about seven million days, making little sense to anyone but hardened 'Prisoner...' fans, before switching to the subject of British soap. Despite the thumbs aloft for the game, 'Eastenders' the soap gets a bit of a thumbs down.

Vicki: "It's just so dreary. After watching it you feel like committing suicide. It reached a bit of a high point with all of Michelle's traumas, and it's never been as good since."

Tina: "All the stuff with Kathy's trial has been quite

good, but most of the time it's just a bit of a bore."

Jo: "It just doesn't seem to bear any relevance to real life, even though they'd like to think it did."

'Brookside', on the other hand, receives the Fuzzbox seal of approval.

Tina: "We like 'Brookside'."

Jo: "I've got an autographed picture of Harry Cross, it's one of my prized possessions."

Vicki: "I think the standard of acting in 'Brookside' is better than most soaps."

Jo: "I like Sammy, 'cause she's such a teenager. I really don't like the Rodgers family, but they are really true to life."

Vicki: "In 'Brookside' you actually care what happens to people, which I think is the proof of a good soap."

YOU CAN'T BEAT A BIT OF BULLY

Jo: "Apart from 'Prisoner...', my favourite programme is 'Bullseye'. Jim Bowen is one of my heroes. I think we should have pro-celebrity darts on our show."

Slowly, but surely, the idea of the 'Fuzzbox Knocks', or 'My Secret Fuzzbox', begins to take on a life of its own.

Tina: "The show could centre around our crap impressions."

FUZZBOX H

Jo: "I really like crap impressions. Bobby Davro's made a career out of crap impressions, so why shouldn't we? I particularly like his Julian Clary (Joan Collins Fan Club) impression, 'cause he clearly hasn't got a grain of understanding for Julian Clary's humour. It's so far off the mark, it's brilliant. And his Duncan Norvelle is brilliant, 'cause nobody's ever heard of Duncan Norvelle, so you don't know if it's any good or not!"

Maggie: "We thought that in our show we could have stories about us that always end with me trying to get my hat on." (?!?)

Jo: "It should be like 'Tiswas', with people being dangled above huge vats of custard."

Vicki: "We could listen to people's personal problems and judge who we think is in the right. Y'know; whether they shouldn't have cheated on their missus or something, and then you dunk them."

Tina: "Or castrate them!"

Maggie: "We've got loads of good ideas and nowhere to put them. We demand our own series!"

When the likes of the appalling Brian Conley and the anaemic Mike Smith are let loose on our precious screens, the least a merciful TV mogul can do for we suffering viewers is give these girls a piece of our Saturday night.



P ART: A LOO AT THE W Zapl Bang! Pow!

As-Batman

celebrates his

75th birthday,

not to mention

several hundred

pairs of worn

Darren Crook

takes a look at

the world of

comics and

discovers

they've changed

from being the

things you used

chewing gum all

over to a hard

hitting art form

vou're no longer

embarrassed to

read on the way

home

to get your

out tights,

KNIGHT TIME

This year marks the 50th anniversary of that king of the crime-fighters, that Dark Knight of Gotham, that scourge of the Underworld, Batman. With a new film about to be released and hyped up fit to bust, now is the perfect time to shed a little light on the origins of Batman, his many friends and relations and the world they originate from --the good old comic book.

These days the word 'comic' is a very misleading one when applied to today's mature, thoughtful fare; adult story lines, violence, sex and death are all ingredients in recent publications but, holy fast forward! ... (groan) let's not jump ahead, a little background first ...

BEGINNINGS, GOLD, SILVER AND THE MATURING PROCESS

The origins of the comic are lost back in the mists of time but aficionados will tell you that comic history proper began in the Thirties with the emergence of the American comic companies DC and Marvel who, to this day, remain the two big noises in the field, cornering about 80 per cent of the market. They'd also tell you of 'The Golden Age' of comics (roughly from the Thirties to the Fifties) when the first costumed heroes sprang into being -Superman and Batman being just two of a plethora of crime-fighting crusaders. They'd tell of 'The Silver Age' (Fifties to Sixties) and the second wave of super beings like Spiderman, the Hulk and countless others which lasted till about 1963.

The mid-Sixties saw the growth of the 'underground' comic and the rise of the independent comic companies, this gradual ageing process of comics culminating a few years ago with the appearance of Watchmen and The Dark Knight Returns. Created, respectively, by comic lovers of the Sixties, Alan Moore and Frank Miller, these two publications marked the coming of age for adult comics. Adult in the sense that the product provided a decent read; literature that stood up to the standard of a good novel.

The quality of artwork too has greatly improved over the years. The comic itself is now available in a multitude of fo<mark>rmats — tradition</mark>al floppy comics, trade paperbacks, hardbacks, graphic novels, art-paper editions — as many formats, basically, as regular books.

COLLECTING COMICS

There is also a huge collectors' market in comics and artwork, prices varying from under £1 to thousands for old mint first editions and rarities. DJ Paul Gambaccini is an avid fan and collector and scum-rock mongrel Zodiac Mindwarp demanded early editions of Silver Surfer in the terms of his contract!

SPIN-OFF FRENZY

T-shirts, baseball caps and patches of various superpersons are available in Britain and America. Does anyone really need Batman fridge magnets or braces?

The influence of comics on TV, films and books is also obvious; films such as 'The Running Man', 'Terminator' and a million and one varyingly good productions owe a debt to imagination born of comics and science fiction in general. Not forgetting straight adaptations; how about The Incredible Hulk', 'Spiderman', 'Swamp Thing' and Adam West's tongue-in-cheek 'Batman'?

EPILOGUE

So, when the subject of comics crops up, think not only of Beano and Dandy (mint condition first editions are worth £600 a piece, by the way), the Eagle's Dan Dare or the







toilet humour and depravity of Viz, because there are thousands of titles to choose from. Be it Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles or the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, Black Kiss (a tacky soft porn 'comic'), Elektra Assassin or even Donald Duck Adventures, there's sure to be something to suit your taste lurking somewhere within a comic shop.

RECOMMENDED

Like the above introduction, the samples laid out below are but a tiny part of a huge phenomenon and a couple of hours in a comic shop will provide much more of an eye-opener.

So then, here are a few of the multitude of new generation comics that come highly recommended (in no particular order). Happy hunting!

WATCHMEN (DC Comics)

This is the best introduction to comics you could ask for. A brief synopsis is impossible given the mammoth plot. Suffice to say that Watchmen covers adult, thoughtprovoking ground within the context of a 'comic'. Super heroes and heroines and the fate of the world may sound like tired ingredients but, given this particular treatment, the resulting tale is full of great chunks of life. Brilliant.

2 THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS (Titan Books)

The book that inspired the new Batman film, this is a million miles removed from the camp TV version. It's 10 years since the Batman hit the streets but the now-aged crime fighter comes out of retirement to haunt Gotham City's lowlife scum once again. Hunted as a vigilante by the City police and loathed by homicidal psychopaths galore, Bats doesn't exactly have it easy. Hard but thoughtful.

3 MARSHALL LAW (Epic Comics)

Peaked cap, black leather, chains, earrings, barbed wire(!), spurs and a conscience, Marshall Law looks like an S&M techno-cop while dishing out rough justice to soured super heroes and nasty creeps. War, male aggression, sex, stupidity, big pricks, questions and a tasty sense of humour in this strictly adult, twisted tale. Superb!

4 HELLBLAZER (Titan Books)

John Constantine is an unpredictable British psychic investigator. An utterly convincing, flawed creation, Constantine has some hairy run-ins with the occult (demon joggers from hell feature in volume one!) and suffers some nasty hangovers along the way!

5 SWAMP THING (Titan Books)

Alec, accidentally transformed into the Swamp Thing, stalks the Louisiana swamp in a body composed of vegetable matter, giving him an original outlook on life and death. Thoughtful and entertaining, this is another must-have.

6 LOVE AND ROCKETS (Titan Books)

Refreshingly different, Love And Rockets features spunky post-punk gals as its main characters in a rock 'n' roll world of the near future where dumb guys and smudged eyeliner are just two of the many everyday hassles, neve mind rockets, dinosaurs and ... love. Funny, addictive and a kick in the balls for machismo!

7 THE ADVENTURES OF LUTHER ARKWRIGHT (Valkyrie Press)

Distinctly British but meditative too, Arkwright is an agent of W.O.T.A.N. (the goodies as opposed to the



RLD OF COMICS

i i frimmig

baddies, the Disruptors) with the ability to travel the space/time continuum into parallel, alternative universes. One such parallel boasts a surviving British empire and Queen Victoria III. Mysticism, sex, sci-fi, violence when necessary and a stonking good read!

8 V FOR VENDETTA (DC Comics)

Set in the near future, V For Vendetta tells the tale of a lone survivor of an experiment on human guinea pigs – V – exacting his calculated revenge on those responsible. A disturbing, riveting tale.

9 HAVOK AND WOLVERINE (Epic Comics)

Two of the X-Men mutants in their own paperback. Maturer story lines and some gorgeous artwork make hairy Wolverine and plasma-bolt thrower(!) Havok a much more entertaining proposition when free of their pals and the slightly juvenile vehicle that is The Uncanny X-Men comic.

10 SKREEMER (DC Comics)

Set after the fall of Western civilisation, during the 'Era of the Gang', Skreemer's a tale of desperation and violence in a decaying US City environment where, erm, death is a way of life, as they say. Actually, pretty damn good.

WELCOME TO THE MILLENIUM

No comics feature would be complete without mentioning 2000 AD. A British creation, this comic has show-cased and nurtured some of the most talented writers and artists in the medium as well as created a host of beloved characters ranging from futuristic lawman Judge Dredd to ancient Celtic warrior Slaine. Imaginative and entertaining, this weekly comic can also boast one thing that no other comic can; a real, live alien editor! Tharg is green, likes rap music, plastic cups and ... Hold on, what an opportunity for an ...

INTERVIEW WITH THE ALIEN!

Up in the Command Module of 2000 AD the extremely busy Tharg has graciously allowed a brief audience. With one eye on a monitor and the other on the interviewer he settles down to talk.

OK Thargy-Baby, could you tell us all about how you come to be editing 2000 AD and what you hope the comic achieves?

Tharg: "Twelve of your Terran years ago I, Tharg the Benevolent, decided that Earthlets had been without Thrill-Power long enough. So I journeyed from my homeplanet of Wuaxxan, a major world in the Betelgeuse system, some 140 Jigablatts from your Sol system. My mission was to bring the Galaxy's Greatest Comic to your pathetic fly-speck of a world. A tricky undertaking, as I know well that such concentrations of Thrill-Power can be deadly in untrained hands.

"Across the intervening years, I have brought new sights, new sounds and a whole new comic experience to the Thrill-starved denizens of Sol's third planet. In the beginning was Judge Dredd, Mach I, Flesh and groundbreaking stories. Before long, these formative strips were joined by Thrill-packed classics like Strontium Dog, Rogue Trooper and ABC Warriors, turning 2000 AD into the definitive comic magazine it has become.

"I began downloading my Progs to Terran newsagents on 19th February 1977. I have continued to evolve 2000 AD in keeping with the maturing tastes of the readership, but not forgetting the younger Earthlets who are ever joining the ranks of Squaxxdom (Friends of Tharg)."

Political and environmental issues creep in subtly in

some of the stories, Tharg. Are you a caring kinda alien? "No one — not even the average Earthlet — can underestimate the importance of Green issues to your native planet. And I don't just say this because I'm green. While 2000 AD concerns itself indirectly with environmental issues (printing on recycled paper is just one example of this), I felt these issues, and many others, too big to be dealt with in the Galaxy's Greatest Comic and created Crisis specifically to look into these areas." Crisis, a monthly, full colour magazine is still in the process of finding its feet, but it's early days yet. Back to Tharg though, and music

What kind of rad sounds get you going? "I first became aware of music with that legendary

artiste Captain Beefheart. So soothing were his sonic vibrations that I resolved to look deeper into this cultural phenomenon. Now both I and my droids appreciate all forms of Terran sounds, from the Carpenters played at 15000 rpm to the sounds of Balinese native drummers tuning up their instruments.

"My favourite three cuts ... at this time, 'Come Fly With Me' by Frank Sinatra, 'Concerto For Egg-Slicer' by that Hungarian virtuoso, Tchovack, and 'Jetstream Tokyo' by Humanoid."

Groovy. Cheers Tharg. Any last comments? Howsabout a message for rm readers?

"I'm glad you asked me that," comes the reply. "Tharg the Media-Conscious does have a message for Record Mirror readers. It is, 'Nothing relieves the sting of an Alterean Bladder Beast like a piece of raw cucumber rubbed on the wound!"

With that, Tharg gently but firmly leads me to the door, one eye still on his monitor, and I leave him to safeguard the store of Thrill-Power known as 2000 AD.

COMPETITION:

Tharg, in his infinite generosity, has deemed to give us five copies of 2000 AD to give away as prizes — each copy autographed by his team of creative genii. These unique, unavailable-anywhere-else, once-in-a-lifetime, totally zarjaz prizes will be awarded to the first five lucky Earthlets, sorry, readers, who can answer the following question:

Which city does Judge Dredd patrol?

Dead easy. Answers on a postcard to rm Dredd-comp Greater London House Hampstead Road London NWI 7QZ.

Finally, our thanks go to Mega City comics who happily supplied the fab comics, assistance and information. They're at: Mega City Comics 18 Inverness Street Camden London NWI 7HJ (01) 485 9320

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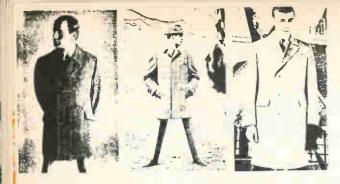






VENDETTA







<mark>single</mark>s

1	()	PSYCHONAUT Fields Of The Nephilim (Situation Two)
2	(2)	JUST LIKE HEAVEN Dinosaur Jr (Blast First)
3	(1)	EARDRUM BUZZ Wire (Mute)
4	(3)	LAZYITIS Happy Mondays (Factory)
5	(8)	ROUND AND ROUND New Order (Factory)
6	(6)	MONKEY GONE TO HEAVEN Pixies (4AD)
7	(7)	JOE Inspiral Carpets (Cow)
8	(5)	CONTACT Hit The Roof (One Little Indian)
9	(15)	A LITTLE RESPECT Erasure (Mute)
10	(10)	BLUE MONDAY '88 New Order (Factory)
11	(9)	CRACKERS INTERNATIONAL Erasure (Mute)
12	(4)	HAIRSTYLE OF THE DEVIL Momus (Creation)
13	(11)	EVERYTHING COUNTS (LIVE) Depeche Mode (Mute)
14	(21)	THE CIRCUS Erasure (Mule)
15	(12)	BIRDLAND EP Birdland (Lazy)
16	(14)	SWEET JANE Cowboy Junkies (Cooking Vinyl)
17	(27)	CAN'T BE SURE the Sundays (Rough Trade)
18	(20)	FINE TIME New Order (Factory)
19	()	NOT LISTENING Snuff (Workers Playtime)
20	(22)	CHAINS OF LOVE (REMIX) Erasure (Mute)
21	(16)	WHITE KNUCKLE RIDE Danielle Dax (Awesome)
22	(29)	TRUE FAITH New Order (Factory)
23	()	SHIP OF FOOLS Erasure (Mute)
24	(23)	MADE OF STONE Stone Roses (Silvertone)
25	(24)	WHEN I GROW UP Michelle Shocked (Cooking Vinyl)
26	(26)	OH L'AMOUR Erasure (Mute)
27	()	THE POWER OF LARD Lard (Alternative Tentacles)
28	()	HOMOSAPIEN II Pete Shelley (Immaculate)
29	(13)	SOUL THIEF Thieves (Planetarium)
30	()	HAUNTED HOUSE Alien Sex Fiend (Anagram)

album<mark>s</mark>

1	(1)	DOOLITTLE Pixies (4AD)
2	(2)	STONE ROSES Stone Roses (Silvertone)
3	(3)	THE INNOCENTS Erasure (Mute)
4	(6)	CIRCUS Erasure (Mute)
5	(5)	TECHNIQUE New Order (Factory)
6	(4)	SILVERTOWN Men They Couldn't Hang (Silvertone)
7	(8)	SURFER ROSA Pixles (4AD)
8	()	ON LAND AND IN THE SEA Cardiacs (Alphabet)
9	(10)	SUBSTANCE New Order (Factory)
10	(11)	WONDERLAND Erasure (Mute)
11	(12)	THE TRINITY SESSIONS Cawboy Junkies (Cooking Vinyl)
12	(7)	101 Depeche Mode (Mute)
13	()	JOY RIDE Brilliant Carners (McQueen)
14	(9)	SHORT SHARP SHOCKED Michelle Shocked (Cooking Vinyl)
15	(15)	LUNACHICKS Lunachicks (Blast First)
16	(14)	TEXAS CAMPFIRE TAPES Michelle Shocked (Cooking Vinyl)
17	(19)	HATFUL OF HOLLOW the Smiths (Rough Trade)
18	(13)	THE MAN - BEST OF ELVIS COSTELLO Elvis Costello (Demon)
19	()	C'MON PILGRIM Pixies (4AD)
20	()	BUMMED Happy Mondays (Factory)
-		



MARY MARY QUITE CONTRARY

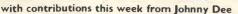
Lawks amighty, Silvertone Records sure is a diverse beast. First up they clobber the world with the Stone Roses and their excellent LP, then they clip us around the ear with the Men They Couldn't Hang, and now they're trying to kick us in the nuts with Mary My Hope, the American rock band who have just got onto the Nephilim tour. They have just released 'It's About Time', a deceptive beast of a record that creeps up on the listener before satisfying its Hendrix fixation in a distinctly Cultish manner. College boys who couldn't stand all the homework, Mary My Hope quit school to tour with Jane's Addiction in the States and apart from the Nephilim dates, they'll be playing in their own right over the next couple of weeks. Grunge on Macduff.



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Compiled with the help of Spotlight Research and selected retail outlets





OOK WHA



WARMONGERS

Those unstoppable, jolly wags McCarthy have slipped out another slice of agit pop with delicious tunes for you to savour over this spring of discontent. The band must have been more disappointed than we at the Independent pages when their excellent 'The Enraged Will Inherit The Earth' LP failed to make much of a splash and included on this latest EP is a version of the 'Pop Guns' (ish) 'Boy Meets Girl So What'. Lyrically and stylistically it's very much the usual McCarthy - that bloody acoustic guitar still scratches away over everything --- but a special mention to 'The Lion Will Lie Down With The Lamb' for its sardonic tone. McCarthy are currently playing selected dates across the country so pop along and vote with your feet.

Every now and then Clive's Product saves up some money and makes an LP. In the small Buckinghamshire village of Chalfont St Giles (where they filmed 'Dad's Army', fact fans), Clive is a DUN legend, two miles away they've never heard of him. Now he looks set to reach a wider audience with a collection of his tunes, 'Financial Suicide', appearing on the first LP to emerge from Billy Bragg's relaunched Utility label. Clive is a DIY idealist, championing the joys of songs from untidy bedrooms and cheap homemade pop. LIVE

His topsy-turvy view of the world reflected in 'The Man Who Thought He Was A Steam Train' and 'Shoddy Body' is accompanied by acoustic guitars and violins; a cross between Jonathan Richman and Dexy's denim period. If you're fed up with 'products', put a bit of Clive into your life! (JD)



And All Because The Lady Loves is the name of this smiling duo, and well they might smile having just released a great little single, 'Not That Kind Of Girl'. The pair apparently hail from Newcastle way and have been turning a few ears since the release of their 'Anything But A Soft Centre' LP last autumn. This track bounces along on a restrained and treated acoustic guitar and a powerful dual vocal attack which swarms all over a decidedly catchy chorus. The Rhythm Sisters without the bleach or Bananarama without Sarah? Who can tell? And All Because The Lady Loves will be putting in an appearance at this year's Glastonbury Festival as well as selected dates across the country now.

Started by Debris fanzine editor Dave Haslam and Happy Mondays manager Nathan McGough, Play Hard Records is fast becoming one of the most consistent and varied independent labels in the country. A year into their existence they've released 'Hand To Mouth', a compilation of early (now deleted) releases and unreleased treasures to come

If there's justice then the Train Set should follow the heels of the Stone Roses and Inspiral Carpets and become the latest northern hopefuls to be trailed by the big boys. Their big western twang sound is positively addictive. Recovering from the humiliation of being a major label flop, the Bodines have returned with a fresher, less cluttered sound. The Exuberants, yet to release their debut single, are our tip to steal the next big thingee crown from the Sundays, offer two sparkling and persuasively catchy songs.

Kit, good name, will remind you of the time before the killer cuties when girl singers weren't girly. While King Of The Slums barge around the speakers being their usual arrogant, ruffian selves. Expect an album from them soon. If this happening label has slipped by you then 'Hand To Mouth' is a good chance to catch up and get 'with it'. (JD)



STRANGLER THAN FICTION

Look out for the latest Strange Fruit session popping into the singles chart pretty damned soon. It's by none other than the jolly Stranglers and features three tracks recorded way back in 1982. As you'd expect, the men in black don't just potter in and deliver their four numbers, instead we have a seven and a half minute version of the wondrous 'Down In The Sewer' and an eight minute medley of 'Nuclear Device' and 'Genetix' to savour. All released just in time to coincide with the band's current mini tour. The other track on the record, by the way, is 'The Man They Love To Hate'.



hese days it's difficult to decide whether Sting is musician, actor or politician. Currently in the middle of a staggering six-week promotional tour for the Rain Forest Foundation, during which he will concentrate on persuasive talk rather than emotive music, it's but the latest in a long line of worthy causes - Band Aid, Amnesty, Prince's Trust etc — he's given his name to

The Foundation was formed by Sting, tribal forest chief Raoni and film maker Jean-Paul Dutilleaux, the latter two having worked to save the Brazilian rain forests since 1.273 without the massive publicity that Sting's involvement now gives them

It was Dutilleaux who persuaded Sting to usit the rain forest during a Brazilian tour several years ago, promising that the trip would change his life forever. So it has

"If we don't use

a certain

product the

people in

charge will

feel it in their

bank balance"

Sting's involvement is no token gesture. His role is more than just as a famous face to publicise a cause who then, conscience cleared, returns to his privileged rock star world to rake in more money with yet another album. Sting hasn't composed a song for two years. He admits he finds it difficult these days.

He also appreciates the enormity of the task in front of the organisation, not helped by the fact that the Eighties have seen rock music involved with a variety of disaster funds and protection causes, all of them equally worthy and well-intentioned. Sometimes he feels the pressure and wonders what a good rock star can really do.

"I've got compassion fatigue," Sting sighs in an unguarded moment. "When it gets to the stage that I'm bored with doing rock concerts for every good cause that comes along, I'm sure the public must be too

ting is a talker and an intellectual, a man who loves to devour the books by the great thinkers of our age. This has led to occasional media accusations of pretentiousness, just as his willingness to help chasity events has often been unfairly portrayed as an opportunistic love of the limelight.

And yet it cannot be denied that Sting is sincere about this cause and it is his participation that has focussed so much attention on the plight of the rain forests in the first place, to the extent that even the Brazilian government is beginning to change their attitude.

reasons," he announces. "I'm here for a number of was introduced to my friend Raoni, I'm worried about the rain fotest and I love Brazil. Meeting Raoni and his people was a remarkable experience. They hunt for food and sleep in hammocks, they are otally unphased by technology and confusion, they have a clear idea of what they are doing here. Raoni is lighting a battle for his children and his grandchildren and I'm hoping that I too can do something for my children and grandchildren."

Raoni is becoming accustomed to travelling around Europe and America these days — and he's not impressed by what he sees. The cities are far too noisy for him, but hes willing to endure this minor discomfort if his presence in the west can save his home. He's also got used to stares from passers-by who can't understand why he has a wooden plate embedded in his lower lip and how he car still speak clearly while looking like an alien from a Hollywood harror movie. But then again, the plate is

specifically designed to scare off enemies!

Tve come from very far away," says Raoni through an interpreter, "and my concern is with the land and the forest. Prospectors, farmers and loggers are destroying our forest, just as the white man has already destroyed his own forest.

"Our ancestors lived free on the land, then came t white man who brought diseases. I think it's terrible ... the forest is destroyed, there will be no shade, we can't breathe and we'll all die."

ecent research reveals that, given today's rate of logging and burning, the rain forest will have disappeared in less than 20 years. Surprisingly, even many of the people actively involved in the burning agree that it is barmful But what can they do? They're just trying

to make a living. Many of them work for huge multi-national corporations, including leading American fast food chains, who use the devastated forest areas as cheap cattle grazing land. They claim to use only American beef in their hamburgers, but this has been proven to be a lie.

Sting stresses that it's important for all people - not just film makers, geologists and rock stars - to get involved in the fight to save the forest. He refuses to cheapen the issue by writing songs about the problem -"It's too complicated for that.

He suggests practical aims: everyone could stop eating namburgers for a month and send the money saved to the Foundation FWe can all do things," he stresses, "because we are a consumer pressure group. If we don't use a certain product, the people in charge will feel it in their bank balance.

Right-now the Rain Forest Foundation have chosen an area 180,000 square kilometres - or the size of Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Ireland put together protect. In this dense area of forest live certain tribes who have never been in contact with western civilisation, and the Foundation intends to hire guards to keep out white

The Brazilian Government have agreed to support the project but cannot afford to contribute to the cost of \$3 million. Some critics suggest this is a sum Sting himself could afford out of his pocket money, having just purchased a new house in New York's Central Park area for a reported fee of \$65 million.

Whatever the politics of that point, the current tour has seen the trio speaking to national and spiritual leaders, journalists, TV broadcasters and children across the world. So far, they've met President Mitterand of France, Prince Charles, the Pope and a bunch of Norwegian schoolkids. In addition, countless TV chat shows will have spread the message more effectively than a million benefit concerts ever could. Their hope? To educate tomorrow's generation about the destruction being caused by this one. you'd like to help, you can send international money

orders and cheques to The Rain Forest Foundation at eithér.

PO Box 1167, Venice, California 90294, USA; or PO Box 50558, 1007 DB Amsterdam, Holland.

Sting hasn't written a song for two years. Instead

he's been tirelessly campaigning to save the Brazilian rain

forests from speculators who want to turn them

into vast grazing grounds for the hamburger industry. Kristiin

Vraa tracks him down



Chief Raobi

STINGING IN THE

FOREST

"I've got compassion fatigue. When it gets to the stage that I'm bored with doing rock concerts for every good cause that comes along, I'm sure the public must be too"





Many are culled, but few are chosen. Cover versions, that is. So, when a copy of the O'Jays classic 'Backstabbers' from an outfit called **Pressure** Zone found its way to rm Dance, it was greeted with more than a pinch of scepticism. To be blown away by it was a surprise. To discover that it's British was an even bigger surprise.

Picture this --- a recording studio far, far away. Well, London Bridge, actually. Singer Nat Augustin looks kinda familiar.

"I played guitar and trombone with Light Of The World." Aha. The plot thickens

Dave Clayton: "I played keyboards on the last three ABC albums." It's starting to make sense.

Marco Perry: "I was an engineer at the Power Plant Studio in LA where I worked on a few Rick James records." Miles from LA, recording for their first album takes place in an atmosphere of fun and mutual admiration. Marco on Mr Augustin:

"The man is blessed with Nat-ural harmony and vocal ability." Ouch! Dave (who once played with a dodgy band on the jazz-funk circuit):

"We'd follow Light Of The World around — Bobby Lyle was one of my heroes, when I heard him on a track I just had to take all my clothes off... Yes, quite, come on down, Mr Wet Underpants.

If getting along famously is important, when it comes to getting it on and getting it down on tape, then Pressure Zone should have no problems at all. Paying perfect tribute to a great song, these lads, dues have been paid in full. (MF)



"Hello, is that **Kechia Jenkins**?".

You are being held in a queue and will be answered shortly

"I'm still waiting, Kechia, still waiting" (MF)

Profile, the US label best known for its rap releases (though it puts out a lot of

retal as well), has just set up shop in the UK. First releases include something fram Sweet Tee and Ms Kechia Jenkins. Let your fingers do the walking... "Hello, Kechia, I'm calling for **rm Dance** about the new record you've just released..., crackle... fizz... Would you agree that it's a classic piece of pop/ soul in the Jocelyn Brown/Evelyn King tradition? Hiss. ... Buzz... Did you know your last single, 'I Need Somebody', is still a massive anthem in the north of England? ... spluter... And am I right in assuming you played Dorothy in a Broadway production of 'The Wiz'? ... crock... crackle... So your new single, it's all about waiting for that special phone call from the one you love, is that right?...:

You are being held in a queue and will be answered shortly ..." "Oh hell, I'm almost out of 10ps, could you ask her to call us back?... Thank



you.



with contributions this week from Muff Fitzgerald, Paul Ablett, Tony Farsides, Justin Onyeka and Vie Marshall

COOL CUTS

1	ALL	INEED A RHYTHM	28th St. Crew	UCVALU		
2	(NIEWA)	LIFEISADANCE	Chaka Khan	US Vendetta WEA		
- 4	(AREAA)	Out at last! Take your pick from 11 rockin		WEA		
3	- And		Chuck Jackson	Nightmare		
4	(NEW)	I'M THAT TYPE OF GUY	LLCoolJ	DefJam		
	(10010)	Back with a vengeance with a rolling gro				
5	122	GRANDPA'S PARTY	Monie Love	Cooltempo		
6	1	FOREVER TOGETHER	Raven Maize	US Quark		
7	14	BACKSTABBERS	Pressure Zone	Tam Tam		
8	(NEW)	ISURRENDER	Funk Deluxe	Tam Tam		
- 7		Driving house cut with a female vocalist		rumrum		
9	(NEW)	YOUNG BOYS ARE MY	in igrosticonto nic top.			
15.	1	WEAKNESS	Kate Ceberano	ffrr		
183	123	Superb, deliciously funky monster of a tra				
18	100	title		introllity of the		
10	(NEW)	DOIT TO THE CROWD	Twin Hype	US Profile		
12	1	The Stone Fox Chase break is revived for				
11	ALC:	BACKTOLIFE	Soul II Soul	Ten /		
12		WE GOT OUR OWN THANG	Heavy D & The Boy			
13	(NEW)	PARADISE REGAINED	Various Artists	RePublic		
		Volume 2 of RePublics impressive collect	ion of New York garage,	A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR OFTA CONTRACTOR O		
14	(NEW)	BLAME IT ON THE BASSLINE	Norman Cook	Go! Discs		
		The ex-Housemartin goes back to his DJ	roots with a thrilling hip hous	e boogie.		
15	(NEW)	IN THE POCKET	the Dymanic Duo U	S Nu Groove		
		More freestyle beats with a hip house mit	that has no rap — now then	e's a novelty!		
16		THEYWANTMONEY	Kool Moe Dee	US Jive		
17	(NEW)		King Sun	US Profile		
		The debut album from Profile's latest rap	heavyweight who first surfac	ed over two		
		years ago with the seminal 'Hey Love'.				
18	(NEW)	BANG BANG YOU'RE MINE	Bang The Party Wa	arriors Dance		
		Britain's most original house combo retur	n with weird and wonderful	cult burner on		
		a limited white label pressing, find one if y	ou can.	VER.		
19			Various Artists	US Vendetta		
20		TOUCHME	New Blood	US Smokin'		
Cool Cuts is compiled with the help of Citysounds, High Holborn						
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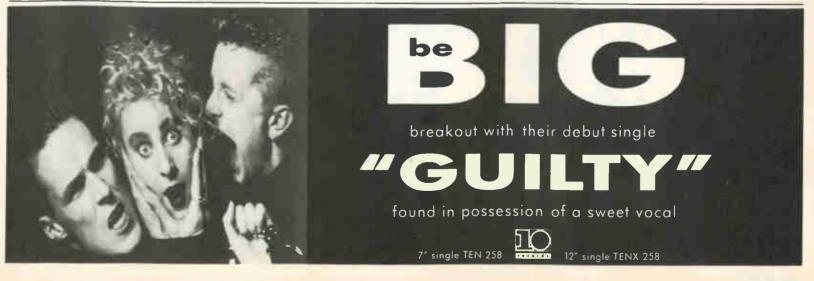
James Ingram is back with a vengeance. His new single, 'It's Real', sees him linked up with swingbeat mentors Gene Griffin and Teddy Riley for a fiery, exciting piece of vinyl.

What is welcome about 'It's Real' is that, despite Griffin's deliciously fat production and Riley's tough remix, Ingram's husky, spiritually rich voice is always in control, refusing to bow down to the groove.

It's almost a decade since Ingrom made his debut on Quincy Jones' classic album 'The Dude'. Since then, and with two solid albums under his belt, Ingrom's biggest success hos been the uplifting 'Yah Mo B There'.

'It's Reol' is also the title of his new album and will hopefully signal the possibility of some eagerly awoited live shows. In the meontime, Griffin and Riley have determined the fate of his single. "Another smosh," they declare in the intro.

For James Ingram, that's the real deal. (JO)





AN

Since her debut LP and singles like 'Come Into My Life' and 'All And All', little has been heard of **Joyce Sims**. Meeting her in Sleeping Bag's New York offices, she tells me that the one thing she has learnt is to save money for those quiet periods.

Today she is about to jump back in the swim. Her new single, 'Looking For A Love', is Latin hip hop with a difference — it features real flute and percussion.

"I wanted a live feel on my new songs; it makes it easier to go out and perform them on stage," she explains in her softly spoken voice. "But it is hard when I begin a song. I start with the bass drum, then the snare, the hi-hat, the tambourine, then some claves and a cowbell; before you know it you've got a Latin band... You think 'Hey, hold on!" She smiles as she raises her voice. "Still, I usually strip it down later."

The LP has been written and produced by her, with Andy Panda, Justin Strauss and Todd Terry brought in to add their mixing skills.

"Sleeping Bag gave me full support in producing the LP. Even when I went over budget!!!" She throws a sidelong glance to the door of the private room we occupy.

Ambitions outside of being a singer used to include acting, but long hours making videos quickly put paid to that. These days she wants to write and produce for other people and is currently working on songs for Millie Scott and Little Louie Vega. Her other preoccupation is her son Jason, who is now 11.

"He wants to be a rapper," she laughs, quietly hoping he'll change. "I used to censor his records but I have to say it, today the rappers are cleaning up their act."

Joyce is about to be recognised in public again, something she used to find unnerving.

"I remember a while back, shopping in a supermarket, this woman ran towards me along with all her children shouting 'Joyce? Joyce!'. She made me sign her cheque book," she giggles. "It was kinda embarrassing!" (PA)

JUNE IS BUSTING OUT . . .

Ex-Brilliant singer June Montana's latest release may have been produced by a one-time rockabilly, but don't let that put you off. 'I Need Your Love' is a summer groove par excellence and already a favourite in that seasonal race for pop dance perfection.

In many ways a tale of two sides, this excellent piece of homegrown house is an object lesson in pleasing all of the people all of the time. Take the A-side for a chart oriented type of song that would make even Yazz blush for its simplicity, give it a slightly left-field treatment and then strip it down for a heavier, more clubby B-side, add the by now obligatory breathless Spanish muttering, and Bob's your uncle. Clever, maybe even cynical, but downright funky all the same. (TF)







COUNCIL RE-ELECTED

Those Style Council boys have got this house thing well sussed. Hidden on the B-side of their remixed and re-released 'Long Hot Summer' is the joyous and rather catchy house tune called 'Everybody's On The Run'. Of course, this expedition into dance territory wasn't accomplished alone. Mick and Paul enlisted the help of house music maestro Freddie Bastone, who flew in from New York to produce the track, and Britain's own Brian J Powell, whose voice ventures into areas Mick and Paul could never hope to reach. Brian had worked with the Blow Monkeys and Lavine Hudson before teaming up with the Council.

"I think I must have bought just about every Jam record ever made," he says. "Now here I am working with Paul Weller, who I guess you'd call my childhood hero, but I've taken it all in my stride really. They're so laid back and unlike pop stars. They're not at all intimidating."

And neither is 'Everybody's On The Run'; only the Style Council could make a house track sound so effortless and simple. Forget 'Long Hot Summer', we'll probably never get one anyway. (VM)



ee dee wilde "no way out"

DEBUT LONG-PLAYER CONTAINING "I FOUND YOU" "LAP OF LUXURY" AND "NO WAY OUT" BRLP/BRCD/BRCA 527 **BROTHER PRODUCTION: EUGENE WILDE**





REVIEWED BY TONY BEARD

• SINGLES OF THE WEEK

OVERLORD X 'Radical Kickbag'

Radicola Rap! Overlord X is Britain's only worthy hip hopper. Having made his name with '14 Days In May''s cry for vengeance, the Overlord is now out to collect his dues. Overlord X is a pretty angry chap, loadsa strident, BIG beats and a spit-in-yer-face rap, but it's now allowed to dominate. Taking its cue from 'Papa's Got A Brand New Pigbag', 'Radical Kickbag' strolls along as arrogantly as the rest but with, get this, *real style*. Kick the bag NOW!

LES NEGRESSES VERTES 'Zobi La Mouche'

RHYTHM KING

Gipsy Kings meet Front 242! Honestly! Les Negresses Vertes (the Green Blackwomen to you) are the thrill of the week. And the oddest at that. Blending French peasant cries, techno dance brutalism and accordions in a club friendly pulp. A strange combination but, nonetheless, potent stuff. A little too reminiscent of Malcolm McClaren's 'Soweto', if you want to get really boring about it, but it still shakes a mean trouser leg. Dance 'til yer legs snap off!

SOUNDGARDEN 'Flower'

SST

Long-haired smelly hippy shit of the week. With Mudhoney creating a bit of a stir with their flawed rock charges, hippos playing at Led Zep, then it's only fair we let you know about their Seattle-based mates. Soundgarden are every bit as trad as the Honeybunchers but 10 times as grunged-up. 'Flower' is a herd of rhinos in your living room; LOUD whiffy riffs and sow-on-heat vocals. Neat



THE BANGLES 'Be With You'

Previously Voice Of The Beehives to a woman, the Bangles are now four parts Debbie Gibson to six parts Hall & Oates. Not as glam as previous efforts but a world away from the oh-so-dreary 'Eternal Flame'. Seems a bit too sure of itself to be a real pop winner, genius never comes from a textbook, see, but it'll be a hit. Now if only the beat wasn't lifted straight from 'Maneater' we'd be bounding round the room. (Overly) pristine pop.

10,000 MANIACS 'Trouble Me'

Natalie Merchant is the caring rocker and 'Trouble Me', it would seem, her anthem. North America's Claire Rayner is, like Tracy Chapman, the reaction to rock 'n' roll's me-me-me attitude. Natalie doesn't want your money (honey) she wants your troubles! Pleasant seems to be the key word here, the band suffering somewhat from Nat's good intentions. Mind you, kindness never killed noone and 'Trouble Me' is a pleasant enough ditty so we'll give it a less than cautious thumbs up.

ENYA 'Storms In Africa'

Enya is successfully and accessibly ethnic. A marketing department's dream. 'Storms In Africa' is yards better than 'Orinoco Flow', though no different in essence. Enya may lack the novelty value, which means she'll never have a hit again but that voice of hers is still enough to have you all down your travel agents on Monday booking a one-way ticket to the Emerald Isle.

CLANNAD 'In A Lifetime'

Backing vocals by God! Yes, Clannad raise their profile and our spirits with this Bono-collaboration-careerresuscitation. Mellow as hell and just as heavenly, Clannad are a folky Enya. The only ripples on this otherwise pond-like record is yer man's pained vocal refrain. Not as strong as Guinness then, but just as smooth.

THE PARACHUTE MEN 'Leeds Station'

Football aggro or sad goodbyes? Neither. The Parachute Men, cunning pop tricksters as they are, have cheekily subverted the norm, turned the rulebook on its head and come out with a corker about happy hellos! The music? Oh yes, advanced jangles, swoonsome vocals and a natty hook. Hardly perfect, but nearly.

THE WOLFHOUNDS 'Happy Shopper' MIDNIGHT MUSIC

Indie pop goes BANG! Ignore the Aside — 'Happy Shopper' is jaunty but nothing new — and shoot straight for the flip instead. 'No Soap In A Dirty War' is Mark E Smith teaching That Petrol Emotion how to play at Sonic Youth, while 'Red Tape Red Light' is a slow-burning fuse. Softly-does-itguitars that smash into the sort of anti-pop toon the shambling society (Primitives, Close Lobsters) ought to have produced. Not a new indie dawn





then, more a move up gear for a band so far ignored.

JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP 'Pop Singer'

MERCURY

Following on in spirit from M's 'Pop Muzik' and REM's 'Pop Song 89' this is another example of autobiographical rock 'n' roll. Rock being the key note here 'cause this is JCM's tirade against the devil incarnate — pop. "Ain't gonna be no pop singer/Ain't gonna write no pop song" he groans. Indeed he hasn't, this being strictly Rolling Stonesville. The thinking woman's crumpet or a baby Bruce Springsteen? Place your bets.

CHINA CRISIS 'Red Letter Day'

Piano-driven OAP pop. More serious popsters would you believe. China Crisis arrive back in the public's eye with a whimper rather than a slap and a bang. 'Red Letter Day' is a fine song but is perhaps better suited to side two, track three of their new LP. Clean as a whistle but very weary, drifting along on a slow-slow riff that seems to stick around for an eternity. And then some.

DAVID ESSEX 'Rock On'

CBS The real Gipsy King! This is the song David Essex wrote when he was living life in the fast lane, born to be wild, that sort of thing. Remixed by Shep Pettibone to give it a bit of 1989, a hint of oomph, Essex reminds us of the time when he was the only alternative to Gary Glitter's Bacofoil rock. Welcome back Silver Dream Racer!

LIVING IN A BOX 'Gatecrashing'

CHRYSALIS

Delayed because of the Hillsborough disaster and now, presumably released to coincide with Liverpool's march to the double. This is the best Box to date. Mind you, it still sounds like a Dead Or Alive out-take from 1984, but if low-energy disco funk (the bass goes chugga-chugga-thunk constantly) is your thang, then strut your stuff.

BANANARAMA 'Cruel Summer '89'

Proper pop and no messin'! 'Cruel Summer', though not one of their finest, shows how pop really should be; OTT or not at all. Brass, handclaps, silly production effects and crap vocals. No doubt the video will feature loads of naked young boys being horsewhipped by the girls. Still, if it's got Keren in as well then I'll be



happy. Pop chapess of the year.



UNDERNEATH WHAT 'Bad Karma Chameleon'

THE CLAYTOWN TROUPE 'Prayer' Island

The Cult (times two!), Underneath What have long hair, hail from Brixton and listen to 'Electric' constantly. 'Bad Karma Chameleon' is 20 years too late, at least. A hairier Godfathers, without the cocky sneers.

The Claytown Troupe, meanwhile, are American Indian wannabes from Weston Super Mare. In between building sandcastles and eating candy floss the singer practises his lan Astbury poses. Clones, the pair of 'em

ANDY PAWLAK 'She Kept A Hold Of Love'

The North East Beat continues apace! Andy Pawlak is of the same school as those other northerly popsters Prefab Sprout, Deacon Blue and Danny Wilson. Serious men with a serious mission. This is serious pop dontchaknow! Pawlak writes quality, if characterless, adult tunes, smothers them in production and sings his heart out. Rick Astley for the grown-ups.

NEW MODEL ARMY 'Green And Grey'

New Model Army make grey, fist clenched, punch the air, sweat 'til you drop rock. Lumpen, all lads together stuff. 'Green And Grey' is power chords, tambourine shakes and communal life lyrics. Cloghoppers!

CLIFF RICHARD The Best Of Me

Cliff's 100th single. A far cry from 'Summer Holiday', being the usual dour, sentimental stodge we're used to of late. Lush and limp. A crap way to reach your centenary then, this being a quick single rather than a six straight into the club house, but time to salute the old trooper all the same. Arise Sir Clifford.

UB40 'I Would Do For You'

Formula reggae. 'I Would Do For You' combines Brummie death threats, laid back vocals and dog tired guitar. UB40 should destroy the blueprint and write their second tune. East



PiL 10

VIRGIN

Rotten Roll! '9', produced by Pet Shop Boys knobsman Stephen Hague, is PiL's disco album. The point at which Lydon submerges himself in the mainstream. Or is it?

On face value, and in comparison to the avant garde out-of-it-ness of 'Metal Box', yes. But delve deeper, beneath the techno-sheen and the hifinance slick there's still that whine. No longer the petulant punk, Lydon is the cracked voice railing against it all, not just authority or the system but life in general. The single, 'Disappointed', is an ailing relationship cut to the bone. 'USLS I' mentions George Bush and the devil in the same breath. 'Same Old Story', with its sarcastically girly-girly chorus, could well be about class division.

That sense of confusion (what is he really on about?), the gaps and mismatches, coupled with Lydon's whinging scorn and anti-bullshit stance is the LP's cutting edge. The vocal positively scars the production's metallic surface, 'Warrior' is almost Simple Minds for chrissakes, making Lydon's rants all the more jarring. '9' is sugar-coated cyanide. Suck on. **EEEE Tony Beard**

CHAKA KHAN 'Life Is A Dance'

WARNER BROTHERS

It's a shame that Chaka Khan's return to the charts has to be via remixes of all her old classic songs, but then there are many out there whose only experience of Chaka is 'I Feel For You' and 'Ain't Nobody', so in the sense that a whole new generation is being introduced to the full breadth of her talent, this double album is a superb display of Chaka's powerful, raw, gutsy vocal performances, and a chance to discover why people get so excited about her. In any case, most of the songs - some hits, others obscure but cult favourites - have been so transformed into state-of-theart club cuts that they're almost unrecognisable from their original versions.

Purists will have a bit of a moan, of course, but Warners only allowed the very best dance producers to tamper with Chaka, and the strategy has certainly paid off. 'I'm Every Woman' has already proved that a 10-year-old disco hit can be made to sound as contemporary as Adeva or Chanelle. and tracks like 'I Know You, I Love You' and 'Clouds' have been given the potential to be more than just underground favourites. Jeffery

ROXETTE 'Look Sharp'

Every time I turn on my radio, 'The Look' comes blasting out of it. I'm beginning to think it's a jingle for some sort of competiton and have taken to reaching for my encyclopaedia every time I hear it.

I'm also convinced that if you threw it up in the air and caught it again, it would be rearranged to sound exactly like Prince's 'U Got The Look'. Still, that's showbiz.

'Look Sharp' is a strange platter. There are so many similarities, like Marie Fredriksson sounding like Wendy James on 'Dressed For Success' and 'Dance Away', or sounding like Bonnie Tyler on 'Dangerous'. Then there's the intro to 'Paint', which evokes memories of Madonna's 'Papa Don't Preach' introduction. And the whole thing falls between Europop and Paula Abdul.

Because 'The Look' is played so often on radio, I'd stopped listening to it. So when I heard it here it was a pleasant surprise to realise what a good pop record it is. The whole album contains elaborate arrangements throughout and perfectly matched male/female vocals between Marie and Per Gessle.

Ratings awarded for creativity more than entertainment value, if you see what I mean. Masters

KEVIN McDERMOTT ORCHESTRA 'Mother Nature's Kitchen' ISLAND

Kevin McDermott's one of those blokes who could busk his way around the world with his acoustic guitar over his shoulder, a tune on his lips and an LP written by the time he returns home.

His modern folk songs are tastefully knocked into a more radio friendly shape here by the solid guitar playing of ex-Pretenders guitarist Robbie McIntosh, replanting them into distinctly gentle AOR territory. Their loose arrangements allowing Kev's Orchestra ample scope for stretching a point in the live arena.

The single, 'Wheels Of Wonder', is perhaps the most concise and obvious nod chartwise, though the title track itself closely resembles REM's 'Stand' in structure and melody. The great thing about the Kevin McDermott Orchestra is that they are completely free of the pompous lyrical code that plagues many of their more established contemporaries. 'Mother Nature's Kitchen' is an impressive introduction to Glasgow's own Don





NENEH CHERRY 'Raw Like Sushi'

'Raw Like Sushi' is so hip it hurts. Having already produced one of the best singles ever made in 'Buffalo Stance', Neneh presents us with an album so full of colour and excitement that it's difficult to keep up with her.

From the wild Latino rhumba of 'Kisses On The Wind' to the crisp 'n' dry melody of 'Heart', Neneh explores the tougher side of life and relationships, the arguments and the pain. It's a hustling ghetto-blasting album, and aggressive too, even in its mellow moments, with Neneh using rap as a vivid and effective accessory to drive home a point. Neneh's strong personality is so explicitly presented that you can feel her wrath, see her grimaces, and then you'll be caught out by one of those chuckles, a gentle knowing ripple of laughter accompanied by wicked grin.

Neneh is on top and she knows it. She knows she's good, she knows people are watching and listening, and unless you have your wits about you, she'll have you wrapped around her little finger. Neneh has proved she's much more than just a singer and a rapper. If Julia Fordham is woman of the Eighties, Neneh is definitely woman of the Nineties --- smart, streetwise and tough. Jeffery

McLean, even if the Orchestra here sound a touch limited in scope either rocking out or leaving their leader to almost solo duties. In time though, Kevin McDermott could well become a hero for intelligent rock fans who appreciate a dash of the vagabond but have no desire to become fisherfolk themselves, thank you very much. Strickland

WIRE 'It's Beginning To And **Back Again'**

MUTE

Wire, in their heyday, were responsible for a string of blisteringly brief punk classics. At least, that's what some people will tell you. For my taste, they were a little too humourless and unmelodic, so it's not altogether surprising that they have latched on to the hazy monotony of the post-futurist dance world. In 'German Shepherds' they come quite close to registering an acceptable Depeche Modey pop song, but elsewhere they sound like Front 242 without a concrete erection. The beat is relentless, the squiggly electronic bits are in all the right places, and the vocals are dour and mechanical as closet Gazza Numan fans always are.

But it's way too quiet and polite! At this end of the totalitarian dance scale the only way to connect is with a brain-curdling, cortex-dissolving thump-thump-thump. This LP tries to be ambient in places but the only drowsiness induced is caused by the oily stench of unattended machinery. The blurred, indistinct sleeve photography and the predictably

gloomy lyrics suggest that Wire wish to be seen as enigmatic, detached and sober. They are all these things. So what?

VARIOUS 'ffrr — Silver On Black'

Don't say nobody ever gives you something for nothing. This double LP sampler sells for the price of a single album (wow!).

It's a mixture of old faves like 'We Call It Acieed' by D-Mob, 'Turn Up The Bass' by Tyree and 'Born This Way' by Cookie Crew along with the more underground dance material like 'Open Your Eyes' by Truth and 'Rock To The Beat' by Reese & Santonio. There's also a liberal smattering of new acts that the label are trying to push. These include Blacksmith, whose 'Get Back To Love' is a little gem, the more poppy dance sound of june Montana and the underground dance hit 'Tears' by Frankie Knuckles. But be warned, though it doesn't say so on the sleeve, it's only an instrumental version.

That's obviously the plan, anyway, you buy the LP then you just have to go out and get some of the singles. So why not fool the record company and just buy the cheap sampler and leave it at that, because the basic package is really good value, so long as you don't already possess some of the older tracks. Though it may only be compiled from one label's roster there's enough variety of sounds here to make you believe it wasn't. And almost every track is a past, current or future dance hit. Mellor



• JACQUI BANANA: "just one cornetto . . ."

BANANARAMA

Hammersmith Odeon, London

So the standing joke about 'Bananarama to tour' has finally become a reality. Seven years after turning gimpy dancing into an art form they've plucked up enough courage to perform on their own without a director yelling "cut" and "super girls" after every take.

The girls emerged through the dry ice and expectation in a well rehearsed pose, black lycra skirts and Spanish gear before plunging into 'Nathan Jones' complete with inch perfect choreography. In fact the whole show was like a collection of their videos linked by the occasional word from new girl Jacqui, whose life as a Shillelagh Sister stood her in good stead, for while Sarah and Keren concentrated on getting the words and movements right Jacqui was flirting with the audience and praising her luck.

Bananarama's appeal is clear, with all the boys in the crowd leching over their particular fave while all the girls mimicked the dancing and imagined themselves on stage. With their tongue in cheek approach there's no danger of taking the girls seriously, especially when they are joined on stage by three greased up muscle boys who spend the evening grinding up their respective Banana.

As they run through the hits — 'I Heard A Rumour', 'Shy Boy', 'Robert DeNiro's Waiting' — it's clear they can't sing, but who cares. Like three naughty schoolgirls whose playtime prank became a career, you can't help admire them for getting away with it. As the most successful girl group of all time played out with 'Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye' and the lights went up, over the tannoy came the Supremes' 'Where Did Our Love Go'. I laughed. The Bananas are good, but not *that* good. **Kevin Murphy**

W.A.S.P. Hammersmith Odeon, London

A large drum kit looms into view, under which appears a video screen with the message 'What you are about to see ...' Thousands of adolescent and ancient metal heads are then treated throughout the evening to clips of war, police violence, the holocaust and drug abuse. Cut-out models of impaired world figures (ie Hitler, Idi Amin, the Ayatollah etc) adorn the stage, surrounded by mock flames. Hey. This must be serious metal, folks. Unfortunately, the only people to take W.A.S.P. seriously are the band themselves.

In truth, W.A.S.P. (apparently standing for We Are Sick Perverts!) are actually the epitome of average, though competent, heavy metal, who are boosted only by the notoriety that precedes them. The main crowd pleasers, 'Animal, F*** Like A Beast', and the last single, 'Mean Man' ("'Cause I'm a mean mother f*****g man"), were the obvious sub-sexual macho crotch thrusters expected of them. "Who's out tonight for a bit of pussy?" shouts Blackie Lawless. "Me" answer the poor misguided souls. Sad.

Most of the tracks from 'The Headless Children' album were featured, other bands slagged off, plectrums thrown in abundance, and Blackie Clueless tried preaching but his mouth spoke from between his legs. In a world where one man's guitar is another man's phallic offshoot, W.A.S.P. are up there on top. **Lysette Cohen**

PIXIES Town And Country Club, London

Last year's hot young things are back — bigger (the hall is positively seething), brasher (success bringing oodles of confidence) and in Charles Francis' case, fatter. Whether they've improved on '88's burst of brilliance, though, is open to argument.

Pixies are pretty much on form, "Wave Of Mutilation' being the snarly toothed killer we hoped for and "Debaser', their latest Boston strangler, a real flurry of guitar wails and "A-ha-ha-hoo"s from Charlie. Anyone far-sighted enough to pen the line "Girlie so groovy" is asking for adoration, no matter how podgy they be.

Pixies are '89's brightest hope for the 'alternative' masses. More obviously weird, and therefore cooler, than the House Of Love, but with some of their more revelatory edges now smoothed out. 'I Bleed', for example, scrabbles along pleasantly, too predictable by half. It takes 'Cactus', 'Bone Machine' and a gaggle of other tunes from 'Surfer Rosa' to really bring things to boiling point. This is, finally, where the sparks fly, Kim's saucy singing about 'a big, big love' in 'Gigantic' and the whole crowd on backing vocals during the 'ooohh ooohh' bit in 'Where Is My Mind?', T'riffic.

So everything works out fine in the end. Don't fret, this is hardly a case of how the mighty have fallen, Pixies are still the shiniest star in the sky, it's just that we've come to expect so much. Some people, it seems, are only human. **Tony Beard**

ELTON JOHN Wembley Arena, London

Well, it looks as if old Reg can forget about investing in some carpet slippers and a nice little room in a Dorset retirement home, for at least another 15 years.

Wearing a dazzling bejewelled Arthur Daley hat and backed by three singers who looked like the Weather Girls' big sisters, Reg was on fine gobsmacking form.

The man wears his years proudly, and his show provided tasters from just about every era of his formidable career. From the mock gothic rumblings of 'Funeral For A Friend' to 'Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting' from his playboy years and 'I'm Still Standing' — which cocks a snook at anybody who's tried to write him off.

In all my years of Reg-watching I doubt if I've seen a better performance. In times past I've watched him sweat so much on stage that if I was his doctor I'd have been seriously worried about his health, but now he looks leaner and trimmer. Maybe it's the result of using that platinum embossed Bullworker he sent off for.

The good thing about Reg is that he gives the audience exactly what they want, but somehow he's held on to enough venom from his hungrier days so that his shows never become cabaret performances or develop into a series of lame caricatures.

It's a darned sight more exciting than your average Jason Donovan gig as well. **Robin Smith**

PAUL HAIG ICA, London

To a possessive few, Paul Haig has been on the verge of greatness for virtually the whole of this decade. And, true to his perverse nature, just as we were all beginning to give up on him, he stuns an audience of several hundred with a display of ironfisted pop in a black velvet glove.

Most of the assembled crowd appeared to be closest Haigettes, so were already familiar with the flawless tones of his recent 'Chain' LP. However, none were prepared for the power of his voice, reaching out of his boots to out-synthesise the synthesiser. Malcolm Ross, stalwart of the Postcard clan which includes Roddy Frame, Edwyn Collins and the Go-Betweens, gave the synthetic sound a realistic hard edge with his bristling guitar.

The songs from 'Chain', especially the single 'Something Good' and a mighty 'Sooner Or Later', sounded tough and proud and left no-one desperate for a spate of old favourites. Josef K's 'It's Kinda Funny' and the New Order co-written 'The Only Truth' were the only concessions to nostalgia, proving that the new material needs no back-up.

On this showing, there seems no reason why Paul's perfect, elfin features shouldn't be seen staring out from your TV screen very soon. When he put down his guitar to shoot the space-age 'Torchomatic' straight from the hip, Sigue Sigue Sputnik turned over in their PVC graves.

My faith has been restored. One day Paul Haig will be famous. **Tim Nicholson**

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format. Unfortunately the Oscar-

been waded through to restore

'Lawrence' to its original glory. The fascinating saga tells how

British military hero T E Lawrence

(Peter O'Toole in his first starring

against the German-allied Turks during World War I. With a striking

have. Roald Rynning

• NORM: "just let me finish me beer and I'll do 'Ob La Di, Ob La Da'"

role) united the nomadic Arab tribes

and original cast, director David Lean uses squillions of extras and creates a desert of pure poetry. The breathtaking desert landscape is lavishly shot. The masses of sand, the heat and the storms make you head straight for the water-fountain in the intermission. To sit through 222 minutes might not be to everybody's taste, but although the film's long, it's really a joyous oldfashioned night out at the movies. And it'll probably be the most memorable cinema event you'll ever

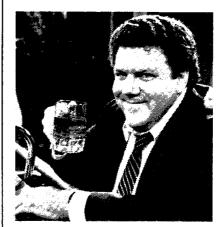
winning masterpiece was cut after its

owners and marketing men, and more than four tons of old film footage has

premiere in order to please cinema

filter LAWRENCE OF ARABLA (PG) Starring: Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, Alec Guinness

Some films stand the test of time, and the sweeping 1962 adventure 'Lawrence Of Arabia' is one of them. The word spectacular must have been invented for this epic among epics. And now 'Lawrence Of Arabia' — a film much loved by the likes of Spielberg and Scorsese — is back on the big screen in its original 70mm



'KAZUKO'S KARAOKE KLUB Thursday 8.30 pm, C4

Yet another C4 chat show with a difference. As the whole world must surely know, in a Japanese karaoke bar, drinkers get up and perform favourite songs by singing along to backing tapes. Voila karaoke! (In Japanese 'kara' means empty and 'oke' equals orchestra). Sort of the Japanese equivalent to Butlin's talent contests. And no doubt just as cringeworthy.

According to C4, karaoke is becoming quite a craze over here, with venues springing up all over the country. Hmmm, have you been doing the hokey-karaoke lately, readers? Anyway, cue 'Kazuko's Karaoke Klub'.

Kazuko, whose other job is being a Frank Chicken, is the giggly but charming host and the best thing about last Thursday's (May 25) show. After welcoming guests in for the briefest of chats, she gets them to 'do the karaoke'. Kazuko and her friend, Atsuko, (billed as a reluctant geisha girl), jig around in the background as the celebrity makes a fool of himself. Sneaky shots show the trendy audience cowering in terror lest they be asked to join in. All this could make for tolerably camp viewing if the guests were amusing and urbane. Sadly, last week's were bottom-of-the-barrel bad.

OK, George Wendt, (Norm from 'Cheers'), was mildly diverting. And then along came Spike Milligan and Jimmy Savile. Milligan launched into the distinctly unfunny monologue and wouldn't shut up. ("I speak Japanese. Hirohito. Toyota.") Oh, ha, ha. Jimmy Savile was, well, 'good old' JS. Smug and sanctimonious, his ego rampant, he droned on about how much dosh he raises for charity. Yes, yes, Jimmy, but why do you have to keep reminding us what a good chap you are? The actual karaoke singing proved, depending on your point of view, (a) what good sports the trio are or (b) some people will do anything for publicity.

This is a show for show-offs, but, please Kazuko, only let funny ones on in future. The guest list for the next seven weeks looks more promising ... what will Claire Rayner sing? Will Magnus Magnusson reveal a personality? What about Billy Bragg, Hurricane Higgins and Michael Fish? Stay tuned — with better guests this could become unashamedly cult viewing. **Josephine Hocking**



video 'HITS 10'

Video compilations are more fun than their audio counterparts. Quite often the video makes up for the song. 'Hits 10' is no exception — 16 hits, brilliant, awful and brilliantly awful. The best thing about this compilation is you can invite all your mates round and play Video Vote in your living room. Bagsy I'm the hamster expert.

Deacon Blue are their usual sincere, rocking selves, caught sweaty and live they put so much energy and meaningfulness into 'Wages Day' you could almost be forgiven for thinking it's quite a good song (two for the video one for the song). Pop Will Eat Itself give the grebo belter 'Wise Up! Sucker' - TV sets everywhere, long hair, all very scuzy (one for the video nil for the song). Why in the Simply Red video for 'If You Don't Know Me By Now' are there so many chairs? Is it perhaps because Mick Hucknall has the personality of a table? (two for the video, three for the song)

'Wait!' by Robert Howard and Kym Mazelle is like a Studio Line advert. the director has obviously just bought a new computer (nil for the video five for the song). 'You + Me = Love' by Funky Worm is colourful and features some fab dancing and terrible Brother Beyond jumpers (five for the video four for the song). 'People Hold On' by Cold Cut is alright, but frankly I find that mole on Lisa Stansfield's cheek very annoying --- I kept thinking a fly had landed on my screen (two for the video three for the song). I'll fast forward the London Boys if you don't mind.

'Pink Sunshine', the alarmingly catchy hit by Fuzzbox, features some 'nerds' (as in the film) and twenty thousand balloons — brilliant! (five for the video four for the song) Gloria Estefan's 'Can't Stay Away From You' is an absolutely marvellous smoocher; needless to say the vid is like an Impulse advert (two for the video five for the song).

Alyson Williams is dance music's answer to Hatti Jacques. 'Sleep Talk' is another performance video sweaty, etc... (two for the video two for the song). There's something about Rick Astley, you just can't help feeling sorry for him. On 'Hold Me In Your Arms' the singing tea boy walks through walls and ends up in a park cuddling his Granny. Fantastic! (five for the video two for the song) 1927 — yueeek, I'll have to press the fast forward again. Oh, it's the end...

For a chance to win one of 10 'Hits



10' videos and albums, write on a postcard the proposed title for the soon-to-come 'Hits 10' follow-up. Send your answers to **rm** 'Hits 10' Competition, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QZ, to arrive by June 12. **Johnny Dee**

TV '7 SPORT' Sundays 5.30pm, C

Sundays 5.30pm, C4 This is *not* Grandstand. "Uncle" Des Lynam's tongue would drop out of his mouth before he announced, "And now we present Britain's first televised jazz dance contest." It is, however, the sort of thing that '7 Sport' will cover — if you can have ice-skating and synchronised swimming, then why not? Two groups of three dancers each ("It's a team sport," advises the presenter) hoof it to oblivion, as exhilarating and physically demanding as any sport.

'7 Sport' is the freshest attack on the cosy, unchanging world of TV sport to come out for several years. TV is already quite good at just relaying events but Jaswinder Bancil, the programme's editor, says, "What's missing is a programme that does stories about sport. They never delve into the background." So, apart from covering alternative stuff like the jazzdancing, skate-boarding and ice hockey, it also does current affairs stories on things like drugs and money in sport, fan worship and the cataclysmic tale of Seve Ballesteros' caddie. "What we're trying to do is explore the culture of sport more."

In many ways the son of 'Network 7', it's produced by many of the same people and also has the ultra sharp graphics and loud backing music. However Jaswinder, herself an ex-'N7' presenter and producer, reckons, "It's moved on and developed far more than any of the other 'N7' substitutes. We'll do items for as long as we can without going into the Cosby Show at a quarter to seven."

She complains loudly when I tell her that it feels like a sports programme for people who don't like sport (is that a bad thing?), but still says, "I'm glad it's drawing people in on that level. It's an entertainment programme, although sport is its subject. What we're really concerned with is making good television." **Roger Pebody**



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ETTERS

• KIM WILDE: "it's all done in the best possible taste"

THE REVENGE OF THE **CHARTOPHILES**

■ Yes, there exists a strange species of mankind called chartophiles. They spend most of their lives looking at charts, studying how many weeks this or that has been in a chart, how many places it has moved, etc. They have an insatiable desire to see everything in the form of a chart. Their whole life is chart ... straight in at number one. Wake Up, at number two this week Get Out Of Bed, up to number three Put The Kettle On, staying still at number four Clean Your Teeth ...



• HUTCH: "this one's a wig'

Why not do a regular Australian singles and albums chart, just like you do with the US charts? We've got so many Aussi artists — Kylie, Jason, Stefan, 1927, Midnight Oil, INXS. Don't you think we deserve to see what's going on down under?

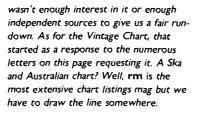
Oh, and another Debbie Gibson interview wouldn't go amiss. Dean Gotch, Northampton

Why don't you do a Ska chart? 2-Tone Pete, Clapham

Please, please, please bring back the Hi-NRG chart. Colin, Hastings

■ OK, so the Hi-NRG chart has gone. But what do you replace it with? The Vintage Chart --- who wants to know what was happening 20 years ago? Scott, Swindon

• The Hi-NRG chart disappeared because people complained it was boring, there



MALU HIMSELF

■ I'd just like to know why Malu Halasa has to review every rap, hip hop, house, acid and every other type of dance record? In rm May 13 there is a review of a Lee 'Scratch' Perry album, as soon as I saw the man's name I glanced down the bottom to the bold black type. To my astonishment it was Malu himself. Why not swap with Andy Strickland, let Malu review the new Bogshed LP and Andy get to grips with K-9 Posse. They might enioy it!

No offence rm, I love the mag, I'm not criticising — just curious. Rob, Gravesend

Firstly Rob, Malu is in fact female. Secondly, congratulations, you guessed Lee Perry's gender correctly, but alas he is neither a rap, hip hop, acid or house performer, but reggae. Thirdly, the curious reason Malu reviews a lot of dance records is because she knows a lot about it and was into house before we even knew it had been invented. Same goes for Andy, he's a world authority on grubby pop and wouldn't know K-9 Posse from the 3 Mustaphas 3. Er, sorry Andy.





CHEESED OFF

I feel I ought to warn you that letting people such as Phil Cheeseman review the new 45s could lose you a large number of readers that you can ill afford to do without. Act now and you could save yourselves! I suggest Tim Nicholson, as he at least listens to a record with an open mind before judging it, giving the reader a better informed picture of what the record is really like. Alastair Wolff, Eccles, Manchester

• Well Alastair, it looks as if we're going to lose a reader in Eccles anyhow! Everyone has different opinions and everyone has different ways of expressing their opinions. Mr Cheeseman uses the 'Get it off your chest and say what you think' method as opposed to Mr Nicholson's 'Play it, play it again, try to like it' approach. Phil will continue to do the reviews every now and then because, like your Aunt Ethel probably says, 'variety is the spice of life'.

WENDY JAMES IS A BIMBO SHOCKER!

Of course Wendy James is a bimbo, but why does 'A Drop Of Patchouli Oil' (rm Letters May 20) assume that Transvision Vamp only sell records because of her sexuality? The fact that I rushed out to buy 'Baby I Don't Care' after having seen TV on 'TOTP' the previous evening is totally unconnected to the fact that my eyes had been glued to the gogglebox and the unknitted near nakedness of Ms James in particular.

I was going to buy the record anyway, because it's a really good piece of guitar pop. But, assuming 'Drop' is correct,

• LEE PERRY models the new line in head shades

WRITE TO LETTERS, **RECORD MIRROR, GREATER LONDON** HOUSE. HAMPSTEAD ROAD. LONDON NWI 70Z

what am I supposed to do after having bought the single? Am I supposed to gaze longingly at the sleeve and emit the occasional "phwoooar"?

Surely if people want to ogle her they will video-tape 'TOTP' instead of splashing out the best part of two quid for the record, or are Wendy James fans too dense to think of this? Perhaps they are, I don't know. Personally I prefer Kim Wilde!

From Someone With No Kim Wilde Records (but who's taped a couple of her videos off the telly)

Are we to presume therefore that you taped Kim Wilde, not because you liked her music, but just so you could emit the occasional "phwoooar" whilst watching her wiggle her navel at the camera? Over the next few weeks rm will be doing a survey to discover if revealing your flesh on TV does sell more records or not. so keep tuned. Meanwhile, do you think we could have a letter that begins 'Of course Tanita Tikaram is a bimbo. ..'.



TANITA: "no-one's turned up again"

WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

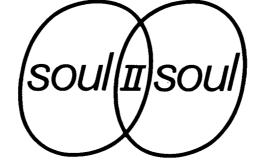
Of course Tanita Tikarameis a bimbo. She has got to the top of the musical charts by openly flaunting her feline sexuality. Bert Smith, Doncaster

• Tanita Tikaram, Suzanne Vega, Michelle Shocked, that girl from Prefab Sprout, the woman in that Flake commercial, the bloke who presents 'Countdown' they're all bimbos.

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• FRANKIE BEVERLY gets sandwiched by Sam Brown

• Two years after she got 'Serious' with a number eight hit, **Donna Allen** is back with a vengeance.

The former cheerleader from Tampa Bay's new single is a beautifully sung, swaying version of the old **Maze** standard 'Joy And Pain', a magnificently uplifting soundtrack to the early and scorching summer most of the country has been experiencing.

Donna's version of 'Joy And Pain' enters the chart only a week after the 1981 Maze original, written by their mainman **Frankie Beverly**, entered the chart at number 57, and five weeks after **Rob Base & DJ E-Z Rock**'s rap version of the song — which, cheekily, doesn't credit Frankie Beverly as writer — peaked at number 47.

Had the Base/Rock version of 'Joy And Pain' been held back until now, all three would undoubtedly be charting simultaneously. The last time three versions of a song were in the chart together was as long ago as 1975, when the **Rolling Stones**, **Chris Farlowe** and **Dan McCafferty** split the popular vote to such an extent that none of their versions of the **Jagger/ Richards** composition 'Out Of Time' climbed higher than number 40. With 'Joy And Pain', expect Donna Allen to be a runaway winner.

The most versions of a song to chart simultaneously is four, in the case of 'Unchained Melody'. Radio 2 disc jockey Jimmy Young had a number one hit with it in 1955, beating off competition from American versions of the song by Les Baxter and His Orchestra, Al Hibbler With The Jack Pleis Orchestra and flamboyant pianist Liberace. For one historic week (17-24 June 1955) all four versions of the song, written by Hy Zaret and Alex North, were charted together --- and it's a fairly safe bet that, had the chart been more than 20 positions deep, even more than four versions would have charted; Roy Hamilton and June Valli's interpretations being only slightly less popular than the four that made it.

Not content with holding this record, 'Unchained Melody' shares with 'White Christmas' the distinction of being a hit in more versions in all of chart history than any other song — seven. • After her excellent rendition of 'Stop', I expected something better from **Sam Brown** than her horribly insensitive update of 'Can I Get A Witness'. Those who know the original of this **Brian Holland/Lamont Dozier/Eddie Holland** song, first and best recorded by **Marvin Gaye** in 1963, will weep.

Still, Ms Brown has brought attention to yet another Holland/Dozier/Holland gem, so we shouldn't be too hard on her.

Its success brings to five the number of remakes of Sixties Holland/Dozier/Holland songs to chart in less than three years. The others: 'Maybe Tomorrow' by UB40 'Come See About Me' by Shakin' Stevens, 'There's A Ghost In My House' (co-written with R Dean Taylor) by the Fall and 'You Keep Me Hangin' On' by Kim Wilde. During the same period, three Motown originals written by H-D-H have also charted: 'Reach Out (I'll Be There)' by the Four Tops, 'Nowhere To Run' by Martha And The Vandellas and 'Stop! In The Name Of Love' by Diana Ross And The Supremes.

• Continuing our analysis of the hits of **Queen**, this week we're taking a look at which members of the group wrote which hits. The group's debut single and their only non-hit, 'Keep Yourself Alive', was written by **Brian May**, but their first chart entry, 'Seven Seas Of Rhye', was a **Freddie Mercury** composition.

Freddie has dominated Queen's single output ever since, writing 13 hits on his own, joining forces with **John Deacon** for 'Friends Will Be Friends' and being responsible, along with all three fellow-Queen members, for 'One Vision', 'I Want It All', and 'Under Pressure' — the latter track, a duet between Mercury and **David Bowie** which further credited Bowie as a writer.

The hits Freddie has written alone: 'Seven Seas Of Rhye', 'Killer Queen', 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'Somebody To Love', 'Good Old Fashioned Lover Boy' (the main track of 'Queen's First EP'), 'We Are The Champions', 'Bicycle Race', 'Don't Stop Me Now', 'Love Of My Life', 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love', 'Play The Game', 'Body Language' and 'It's A Hard Life'.

Brian May is the next most prolific member of Queen, in quantative terms if

not qualitative. Brian shook off the disappointing failure of 'Keep Yourself Alive' fairly quickly, launching his career as a writer of hits with 'Now I'm Here', a number 11 single in 1975. He has subsequently penned the following hits: 'Tie Your Mother Down', 'Fat Bottomed Girls,' 'Save Me', 'Flash', 'Las Palabros De Amor', 'Hammer To Fall' and 'Who Wants To Live Forever' to bring his tally of allmy-own-work hits to eight. He also wrote 'Thank God It's Christmas' with **Roger Taylor**.

Despite the presence of two such productive writers in Queen, John Deacon got his name on a single as early as 1976 with 'You're My Best Friend'. Though it was a number seven hit, he's only been allowed to write a further four singles — 'Spread Your Wings', 'Another One Bites The Dust', 'Backchat' and 'I Want To Break Free'.

Poor Roger Taylor has had an even tougher time. Queen were 11 years and 23 hits into their career before Rog wrote them a hit, his break coming with the anthemic 1984 hit 'Radio Ga Ga'. His second attempt, 'A Kind Of Magic', which was also a big success, reached number three in 1986. Despite this, he hasn't been offered a third crack of the whip.

If we compare the chart peak of hits written solely by individual members of Queen, those two hits give Taylor a much better average position than Mercury, who is second with an average of 13, May (16) and Deacon (17).

Queen is the only group in chart history to contain as many as four members each with solo hit compositions to their credit. In fact, their 1984 album 'The Works' spawned four top 20 hits, each written by a different member of the group.

All 10 tracks on Queen's new album 'The Miracle' (of which more in This Week's Chart on page 54) are credited to

the group as a whole. Whether or not they really do now all sit together and make contributions to every song they record is open to debate, with some other groups it would be easy to distinguish the work of one individual from the others, but each of the four members of Queen has already proved that they

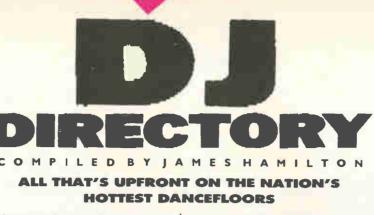
of Queen has already proved that they are capable of writing songs that bear the undeniable characteristics that make Queen's music unique.



BEATS & PIECES

PROFILE RECORDS was launched in the UK with a formal cocktail party for the business at the faintly incongruous and very proper **Naval and Milicary Club** (Piccadilly's famous "In and Out") — less incongrous when one discovers that the label's **Paul Oakenfold** was previously employed as a French chef there, ten years ago

employed as a French chef there, ten years ago ... Profile's UK pressings turned out to have the exact same Beats Per Minute as the import versions, but that couldn't be taken for granted Greg Edwards has revived his last week old 'Soul Spectrum' show, not now on Capitol Radio but on Kent ILR station Invicta's split frequency AM service ... Graham Gold, despite joining the increasengly pessimistic KISSfm bid for London's FM incremental licence, looks like getting a Friday night general music show on Chiltern Radio in the meantime **BBC-2** will now be screening merely a 30 minute heavily edited version of the Royal Albert Hall Technics World DJ Mixing Championships final — with barely a glimpse of any Djs, no awards presentations, and mainly the live star performers — on Sunday, July 30 (which proves it doesn't do to trust what TV people say) ... Caroline Pead has moved from A&R to take over Linda Rogers' old rôle as club plugger at **Phonogram** — who appear to have dropped both **Derek B** and **Krush** from their roster, but have licensed the Rapsonic label from The Dance Yard Recording Corporation (first release to be Top Billin's 'Set It Off'. based indeed on the Harlequin Four's, amongst others) ... BCM Records owner Brian Carter is planning a massive dance music three-dayer in Berlin for September (Sur/Mon/ Tuesday 17/18/19, 1 think), to shake up Germany's dance market with the likes of De La Soul and many more top stars - fuller details later, but already lots of Londoners are getting excited at the prospect! ... Bud Nijjar and Future Shock Promotions (01-533 3840) are runnning a club trip to Madrid with Jazzy M, Norman Jay, Nick Halkes and other guest DJs on June 15-18, for £196 all in Voltalight*Soundspin International Ltd need two pro Dis for both South London's Bon Bonne and a club in Corfu, the Greek gig with all expenses paid (call Philip Dinnis on 0836 372630) ... Marie Birch, recovering form a blood disorder, is just about back in action updating her DJ mailing list at Sound Promo-tions, 106 Wembley Park Drive, Wembley, Middlesex (01-861 0578), the same address as for the Everton Webb shared PA's Unli-New Music Seminar registrants mited and Marriott Marquis hotel guests alone will be allowed into the revolving bar this year, following my recommendation that this is where New York visitors can meet everyone without having actually to pay for the Seminar - bad news, sorry! ... Chaka Khan may not now be at the November Prestatyn weekender, it's Guy and Teddy Riley who are being mentioned instead! ... MC Jammy Hammy provides the pivotal "male sample" for the now promoed LA Mix featuring Jazzi P 'Get Loose' (Breakout USAT 659, not due fully until the end of june), and Atmosfear 'Dancing In Outer Space' break beat based (with permission) frantically wordy Jaz zi Pauline rapped hip house flier in



126%sbpm Not For Long Mix. Mike Stevens saxed 0-127-0bpm Atmospheric Sax Dub, and Chad Jackson scratched alternative less frenetic 0-127bpm Rock To The Hardcore Mix versions — Atmosfear appears to always to have been an anthem for rollerskaters, so it was a lucky coincidence that the video is set in a roller disco!

Princess having extricated herself from a fruitless Polydor contract, returns at the end of lune on her brother's new Touchtown label warbling much as before although with less strong a song the repetitive judderingly throbbing and jangling breezy 120bpm 'Lover Don't . Jaki Graham returns after almost as Gol long a hiatus on lune 12 with the Paula Abdulish very American style jittery chugging 'From Now On', but the initially promoed jerkily thudding 971/sbpm Here & Now Mix by Shep Pettibone is not the commercial version ... London Boys' follow-up on June 12 is the more stolidly tempoed though similarly textured very European 0-119f3/sbpm 'London Nights' ... Blacksmith 'Get Back To Love' isn't actually out fully now until June 26, and has an even better swingbeat mix to follow (the one to wait for) ... Miles Jaye's album 'Irresistible' is out here now (Fourth & Broadway BRLiP 531) Norman Cook 'Blame It On The Bassline features rapper MC Wildski, on the Go Beat label rather than Go! Discs ... Soul II Soul's newie turns out (on seven inch at least) to have the full title 'Back To Life (However Do You Want Me)' ... de/Construction Records are releasing Casanovas Revenge 'Let's Work' NWA's excellent if controversial here 'Straight Outta Compton' rap album will finally be out here on BCM Records, with 'Express Yourself as a single ... City Beat Records are releasing here the brilliant Koxo Club Band 'Paradhouse Remix' ... S'Express's next single will be the decidely weird 'Mantra For A State

Of Mind', not necessarily a floor filler! ... UK promos which might start hitting before full release next week include the **Barry Upton** produced, **Peter Slaghuis** mixed, cornily dated volume pumping pop-house **Krazy House** 'Krazy House' (Supreme), and Australian girl's reworded **Commodores** funk oldie reviving **Kate Ceberano** 'Young Boys Are My Weakness' (London) ... Lonnie Gordon, guest vocalist on Simon Harris's newie, is recording in her own right for **Supreme Records**... **Music Of Life** recorded and are issuing as a live album the 'Hustlers' Convention' rap party they held at the **Cafe de Paris** following the DJ Convention in March, featuring jams by **Daddy Freddy**, DJ Mark The 45 King, MC Duke, Latifah, Demon Boyz, Merlin, and Asher D

BMG's "disconcerting" Eddie Gordon claims that Motown's upcoming soundtrack album from Spike Lee's new 'Do The Right Thing' movie is the best black soundtrack since 'Shaft' --- well, the latter was a fully composed orchestral score whereas the new one is merely a compilation album, but, having driven around sun drenched East Kent listening to it for several days, I can confirm it is an excellent compilation with strong newles by Public Enemy (their next single!), Teddy Riley featuring Guy, and EU, plus Perri, Take 6, Ruben Blades, Al Jarreau and more ... Theo Loyla's cottage near Heme Bay, with a distant view of the Reculver towers across buttercups, daisies and grazing ponies, is for sale -- contact Seekers, the no commission esate agents, on 0227-367225 ... Colchester mixing DJ Conan plus Ben Howard, Mark Smith and DJ 'H' have an upfront Groove this Friday (2) at Sudbury's Tudor Youth Centre - the thought of an upfront Tudor youth is quite a mental image! I'm outta here - BUT NOT FOR LONG!

HOT VINYL

TWIN HYPE 'Do It To The Crowd' (US Profile PRO-7255)

Instantly massive, this 'Monkees Theme' introed then (following some unbroadcastable comments!) 'Stone Fox Chase' and many other scurrying and scratching Todd Terry-type samples 0-114%sbpm rap jiggler (with intro-less Instrumental and Bonus Beats flip) is already scheduled for June 19 release here, and was in fact reviewed off a UK pressing (Profile PROFT 255, via Pinnacle). Hot to trot!

JOYCE SIMS 'Looking For A Love (Club Mix)' (ffrr FX 109)

A haunting "grower" as anticipated, this selfpenned/arranged/co-produced naggingly attractive flute tootled lightly Latin-style 1093/s-1093/sbpm pattering and jiggling swayer (1093/sbpm Instrumental and 1093/sbpm Radio Version flip) has been worth the wait, very pleasant – and a probable smash?



KECHIA JENKINS 'Still Waiting' (Profile PROFT 250, via Pinnacle) Originally seen by many as the logical "garage" successor to Chanelle and Adeva, although in the event never quite that big while on import, this now UK issued (and label launching) excellent powerfully wailed timelessly trotting bass snapped and drums smacked strider — with some sneaky quotes from 'Ring My Bell'! — Could still end up that hot, here in just its 115½-115bpm Fly Guy Mix, 116½-116½-0bpm, Damn, That Girl Can Sing Dub, and jerkily bounding 116½-0bpm Kechia's House versions.

SWEET TEE 'Let's Dance'

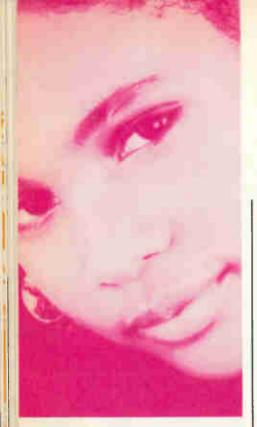
(Profile PROFT 246, via Pinnacle)

Already hot on import, this Fast Eddie remixed Cookie Crew-ish jaunty though subdued hip house bubbler, with its James Brown backing samples varied for the two different sides' 1183/sbpm Hip House and harder 1147/sbpm Hip Hop mixes (both with instrumentals too), is the other spearheading release for the UK label launch.

VOODOO DOLL 'Women Beat Their Men (Voodoo Village Club Mix)'

(Champion CHAMP 12-208)) Fearlessly rush released here despite blatantly combining elements of A Guy Called Gerald 'Voodoo Ray' with Dominatrix 'The Dominatrix





MONIE LOVE 'Grandpa's Party (12" Music Mix)' (Cooltempo COOLX 184) Following the confident young rapper's debut chart-topper, this "Grandpa" Afrika Bambaataa dedicated (how does he like that?!) speedily churning and chattering 125bpm hip house galloper, produced by Dancin' Danny D with Richie Fermié of Adrenalin MOD, is again a sure fire floor filler except that by being in an increasingly over subscribed musical style it might not get quite as high as last winter's '1 Can Do This' however, conversely, with its cornny chorus it stands every chance of being a bigger pure pop hit (how does she like *that*?!). The flip's brightly percolating 12" Beat Mix is again rather tougher though still the same speed.

Sleeps Tonight' on an acid trip, this Frankie "Bones", Tommy Musto and Lenny Dee creation in three 1213/sbpm mixes is obviously immensely useful, as its fast chart rise on import showed.

MILES JAYE 'Heaven (Celestial Club Mix)'

(Fourth & Broadway 12BRW 133) Instead of his US 12 inch, 'Objective', we get this far better brand new Frankie Knuckles and David Morales remixed snappy percussion and bass jiggled 1003/s-1003/sbpm mellow throatily romantic though becoming pent-up soulful jogger, ending up in swingbeat style despite its tapping distinctive start easing into a calmer

vocal opening half before the arrangement ex-

1003/sbpm Bonus Beats, and totally different pleasantly swaying 1011/sbpm Ed's Edit versions too). Unlike the less powerful original album treatment, this now does stand a chance of becoming a modern soul anthem.

THE DYNAMIC DUO

(US Nugroove NG-020)

Crown Heights Affair "dada-dada, dip dip dip" scat, Sylvester 'You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)' quotes and many other funkily chugging break beats weaving useful nervy percussion – on what sounds sometimes suspiciously like Rolf Harris's "wobble board"! – driven instrumental thrasher, in 0-120%-0bpm Hip House, 120%-0bpm Hip Hop and 120%-0bpm Hip House Dub mixes.

KING SUN 'On The Club Tip' (US Zakia PRO-7254)

Rather pointless long moody slow starting but then really fiercely churning and scratching (0-)116bpm strong husky rap jiggler (Intrumental and 116bpm Bonus Beats too), not exactly innovative but likely to be big as very good – it's another due for June 19 release here, and reviewed off a UK pressing (Profile PROFT 254, via Pinnacle).

KOOL MOE DEE 'They Want Money (Extended Version)' (live JIVE T 207)

Disappointingly not as widely raved over as I originally thought it would be, this Teddy Riley co-created terrific bass rumbled brassy (0-)106%bpm rap jiggler sounds like a James Brown funk groove even if it isn't one (entirely), with a Dub Version plus the dated organ chorded wordier 879%bpm 'Get The Picture (LP Version)'.

THE LINCOLN BOYS 'Check It Out'

(US Dance Mania DM 020)

Glen, Hoff, Bob and Hank Lincoln plus Neil Howard are produced by Bad Boy Bill, Terry Housemaster Baldwin and Frankie Hollywood Rodriguez for this quite amusingly worded dated Todd Terry-type acidic samples woven twittery jittery episodic smacking canterer from Chicago in (0-)121%-121%-122-121%-121%-122-0bpm Bad Boy, (0-)121%-122-121%-0bpm Sample and 122-121%bpm 99 St. Mixes, flipped by the similarly familiar and possibly stronger simple derivative though effective jangly chanting 'Get Up Get Down' in 0-1251/sbpm House and 1251/s-0bpm 99 St. Piano Mixes.

ALTON 'WOKIE' STEWART 'All Our Love'

(US Epic/Jump Street FE 45210) Allen George & Fred McFarlane produced vocally very strong though otherwise derivative somewhat dated "D" Train-type soul album, all quite satisfying even so, with the really "D" Train-style 116¾-117bpm 'You're The One', jaunty go go-ish 0-108¾-0bpm 'How You Livin" steadily bashing swingbeat 104¾bpm 'She's So Cold', soulfully rolling 107Åbpm 'This Is It', muttering started mellow swaying 98¾bpm 'All Our Love', sensuously smoothy Marvin Gaye-style 75½bpm 'Sexy Love', mumbling "lurve" scenario setting Isleys-ish 61½bpm 'This Song Is For You', 'My

REMIXES

KELLY CHARLES 'You're The One (Remix' (Champion CHAMP X12-100), for better really powerful chunkily tratting 121³/sbpm solid new gorage treatment, still not due until June 12 but olreody getting much more DJ support thon the now B-side relegated jerkily weaving 1213/4bpm original mix (colled here the Dub Club Mix): PROJECTION 'Lovestruck (Streetfunk Style)' (Jam Today 12 CHIL 13, via JetStar), Poul Anderson & Gorry Hughes remixed funky drummer pottered, boomin boss burbled, vomping orgon chorded, synthetic strings ond bross occented good girls hormonised ond worried rumbling 1091/sbpm street soul shuffler (bridging between continuous Ports 1 & 2), flipped by the original Elite mix of the jaltingly topping sweeter 108bpm 'Turn Your Love (Right Around)'; CORPORATION OF ONE with MYSTIQUE 'The Real Life' (US Smokin' TAI 126618), the Simple Minds/Queen combining recent UK released dance hit now remixed on import for o second time, hip house-ishly with husky rop odded to the (0)-1213/s-Obpm Vocol or a dubwise International (not a misprinted instrumental, there being many other woshing somples), flipped by o more beefily chugging House Dub in three seporote (0-)122-Obpm ports, oll giving new life to o tune that seemed to burn out quite quickly once it wos finolly out here (odd thot neither these new ones nor the eorlier Oppy Mix hove hod UK releose too); EDDY GRANT 'Walking On Sunshine (Zulu Mix)' (Parlophone/Blue Wave Records 12R 6217), opening with "zulu" repetition ond whot proves to be continuously pottering new percus-sion before ony fomilior old elements ore to be heord, Tim Simenon's **1174/sbpm** remix of the tune that become more fomous when covered by Rockers Revenge is presumobly in celebrotion of its tenth onniversory, the cluttering percussion odding little to its oppeol olthough the flip's untouched 114³/sbpm Originol Mix does sound empty ond ploin by comporsion (jounty **122²/sbpm-123bpm** 'Colifornio Style' soco colypso from 1981 too; FUNKY WORM 'You + Me = Love (The Bass Addition Mix)' (FON/WEA FON19TX), juddery boss overloid 122bpm looser semiinstrumental remix by Parrot and Mark, the old Undisputed Truth tune proving nat to be the hit that had been anticipated by some (two further 122bpm variations as flip too); BONNIE BYRD 'Good Girl' (BSBi BENNT R2, via PRT), finally released here for some reason as a less sultry O-1011/sbpm remix, this unhurriedly weaving and wailing soul swayer now lacks the impart's power but gains on instrumental, while the originally hotter 'We Can Make It' flip is in a slightly slower still stroiningly sung though more cleonly bounding 120bpm Tony Humphries remix; NENEH CHERRY 'Manchild ("Massive Attack" Remix)' (Circa Records YRTX 30), monotonous droningly dubwise resonont tugging ond scrotching stronge 88bpm remix by Mossive Heort Attock (bonus beots too), flipped by o more storkly hip hop-ish sombre slower 85bpm Smith 'N' Mighty remix (More Boss — Less Vocol Style mix too).





Prerogative'-type 114½-0bpm 'Headache', and urgently churning 119½bpm 'Reflections'.

LYNCH 'Magic Spell'

(US Capitol V-15462)

Bobby Glover Your Spell' rewriting, Roger Troutman produced, teasingly started then soulful high pitched harmonies washed typically rolling pleasant guy sung modern soul jogger full of classy touches, in 1033/sbpm Hocus Pocus Mix, (0-)1031/sbpm Hocus Pocus Instrumental, and 1041/sbpm 7" Trance versions.

MR MONDAY 'Keep On'

(Greedy Beat Records 12 GREED 7, via Revolver)

"Don't stop, don't stop, keep on" muttered and breezy bass burbled simple solidly pushing 117½bpm jiggly instrumental disco chugger, really locomoting, flipped by its 117½sbpm Dub and title repeating 'Don't Stop' version, well worth checking.

KINGS OF PRESSURE 'Slang Teacher'

(US Next Plateau Records Inc PLI017) Rather better than was repeatedly rumoured when first about, and now in fact with several tracks being returned in DJs' charts, this drily declamatory rap album has the Kool & The Gang "get down get down" punctuated wordily rolling 0-102%bpm 'Brains Unchained', graveyard visiting subtly sinister 0-1081/6bpm Tales From The Darkside', good funkily lur-ching 1081/20pm 'So Simple', urgent jiggly fast talking 0-1061/6-0bpm 'Slang Teacher', sweet Stylistics based LL Cool J-like mushy talking 76%bpm 'Call Me On The Telephone', staccato funky 105bpm 'Who's Gonna Take The Bait', jerkily convoluted 108%bpm 'Nozy Bodies', nervy thin 1121/sbpm 'Rappers Have Feelings', fragmentary short throwaway (but both running on into the following track) 0-961/3bpm 'Gator Posse' and 83bpm 'Smooth As A Violin'. That said, don't get the impression it's essential!

KIARA 'Every Little Time' (Arista KA | & 2)

Promoed as a twinpack with confusing label credits listing Arthur Baker, the Brooklyn Funk Essentials and Kiara themselves as remixers, but with no indication of which tracks, this male duo's Milli Vanilli-ish (though much less commercial) tuggingly lurching hip hop-cumswingbeat jiggler gets different emphasis shifts in the 94¹/₃-0bpm Hip Hop and 7" Edit, 94¹/₃bpm New York, 0-94¹/₃-94¹/₃-0bpm New York Jammin' Beat, 0-94-94¹/₃bpm Detroit and (actually shorter!) Detroit Extended versions.

ROCKIE ROBBINS 'Serious (Club Mix)'

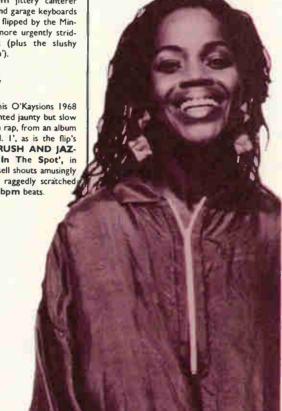
(Respect PECT I, via First Strike/PRT) Ralph Tee's new label is launched on June 19 by this Jon Williams and Dizzie Dee remixed anxiously insistent 11736-0bpm jittery canterer overlaid by acidic twitters and garage keyboards to give it UK trend appeal, flipped by the Minneapolis recorded original more urgently striding 1171/sbpm Soul Mix (plus the slushy 551/4bpm 'Keep A Light On').

POPPA RON LOVE '1'm A Girl Watcher' (US Def Jam 44 68783)

Oldies double-sider, with this O'Kaysions 1968 US hit adapting reggae accented jaunty but slow 90³/₃-90¹/₂-0bpm ragamuffin rap, from an album called 'Def Jam Classics Vol. 1', as is the flip's better known RUSSELL RUSH AND JAZ-ZY JAY 'Cold Chillin' In The Spot', in which artistes' manager Russell shouts amusingly extemporised comments to raggedly scratched and jammed 0-98¹/₃-98-98¹/₃bpm beats.

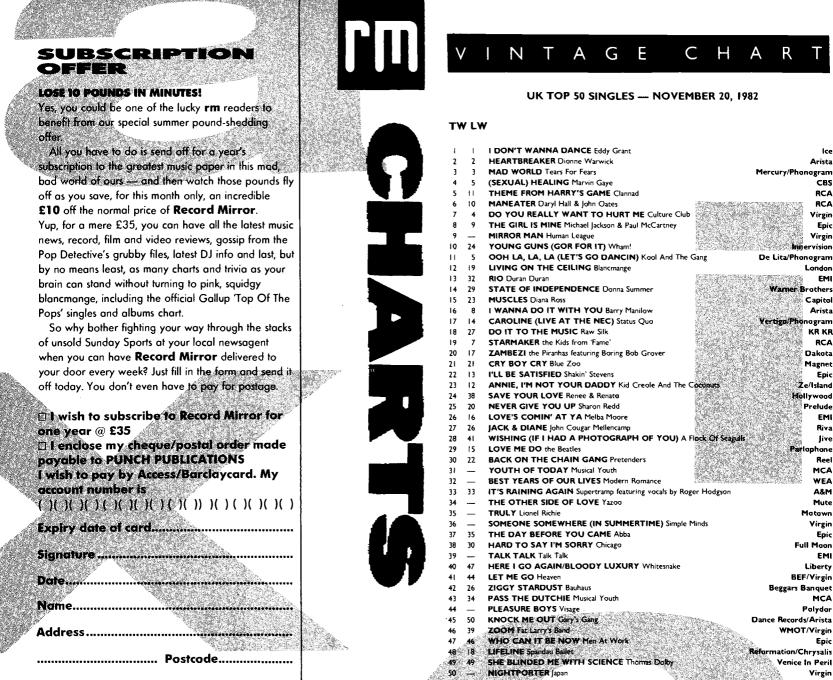
THE JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET 'Breakout' (Urban URBX 38)

Late Sixties-style 1121/4-1111/2-111-1103/4-1111/2bpm brass and organ funk instrumental, nothing exceptional if put in the context of others of the vintage it emulates although bright sounding in comparison with today's stuff, on a four-tracker coupled by out and out iazz.



PRESSURE POINT 'Dreaming' (Viceroy Records 12 VICE 2) PP Arnold sultrily wails this impatiently anticipated and now finally available superb classy jazz-funk style shuffling soul swayer, with burbling bass and brassy accents, a bit specialist maybe but set to explode on the serious club scene in its (0-)105%bpm Easy Dreaming Mix, mellower 105%bpm 7" Radio Mix and Instrumental, and totally different more sparsely trotting 110bpm Jon Williams Mix. Thoroughly recommended to all for whom the music matters.





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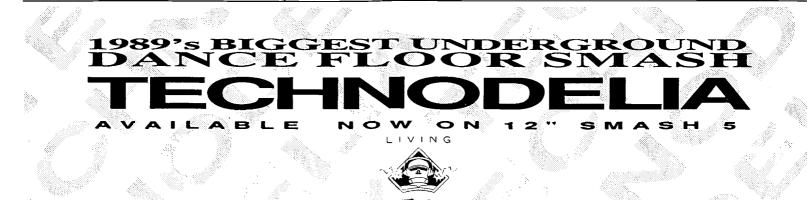
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	56	LET'S PLAY HOUSE (CLUB) Kraze	MCA Records 12in
	69	HEAVEN/IRRESISTIBLE/OBJECTIVE Miles Jaye	Fourth & Broadway LP
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	52	SISTER ROSA (12" REMIX/DUB VERSION) The Neville Brothers	Nightmare (2in Breakout 2in
	57	IF I'M NOT YOUR LOVER (REMIXES) AI B Sure! featuring Slick Rick	US Warner Bros/Uptown
	•••		Records 2in
	70	THEY WANT MONEY (EXTENDED REMIX) Kool Moe Dee	US Jive I Zin
	36	KEEP ON MOVIN' (TEDDY RILEY'S RUBBA DUB/BONUS BEAT	S) Soul II Soul US Virgin 12in
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	55	STRINGS OF LIFE (MIXES) Rhythim Is Rhythim	Jack Trax (2in
	60	DREAMING (MIXES) Pressure Point	Viceroy Records 12in
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	76	FUNKY COLD MEDINA/ON FIRE Tone Loc Delicious Vi	nyl/Fourth & Broadway 12in
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	74	IT'S TIME TO GET FUNKY (ATMOSPHERE MIX) Bizarre Inc	Blue Chip 'R&B' 12in
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	79	IN THE POCKET (HIP HOUSE/HIP HOP MIXES) The Dynamic Duo	US Nugroove 12in
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	86	LET IT LOOSE (MIXES) Amy Jackson	BSBi I2in
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	65	ROCK TO THE BEAT (STEVE WREN'S THE SLAMMER MIX) Lisa M	Jive 12in
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Hammer Capitol 18	COMPLATION Rod Stewart and the Faces Music NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC VIDEO 14 Compilation EVERCREEN All About Eve Compiled by Gallup	Virgin/Pf



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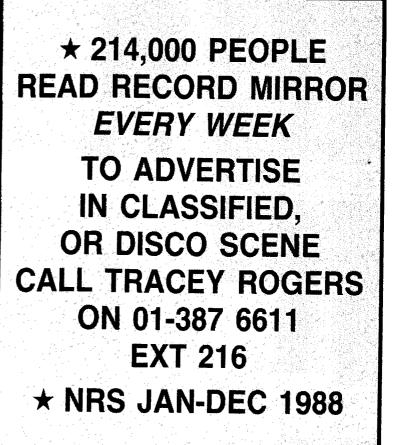
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PROBLEM SOLVED



THIS WEEK'S CHARTS

ANALYSED BYALANJONES

• 'Ferry 'Cross The Mersey' pinches a third week at number one, but is waning fast, and seems practically certain to be overtaken next week either by Jason Donovan's new single 'Sealed With A Kiss', which was released on Monday after what seemed like weeks of heavy exposure on TV and radio, or Lynne Hamilton's strongly surging theme from the TV series 'Prisoner: Cell Block H', 'On The Inside'

Lynne, the girl from Lancashire, who emigrated to Australia, then America, and disappeared as her hit was breaking, was finally found visiting friends in Melbourne, and whisked back to Britain to promote 'On The Inside'. She made her 'Top Of The Pops' debut last Thursday, only to be introduced by Simon Mayo as *Lynne Anderson". Nevertheless, the exposure the programme gave to 'On The Inside' hastened its ascent of the chart, and it now stands at number three.

In Australia, 'On The Inside' peaked at number two in 1979, being denied top billing by Racey's 'Lay Your Love On Me

• WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Queen's 'The Miracle' is a runaway number one on the album chart, after selling over 150,000 copies last week.

Queen thus join Abba, the Police, Genesis, U2 and Simple Minds as the acts to have most number one albums in the Eighties — four. Of these acts, the Police, Genesis, U2 and Simple Minds have had all their albums debut at number one, whilst both Queen and Abba have had albums make lesser initial impressions only to later climb to the summit.

With two Seventies chart-toppers also to their credit, Queen have had a total of six number one albums — more than any other group except the Beatles (12

number ones), the Rolling Stones (nine), Abba (eight) and Led Zeppelin (also eight).

NB: Readers checking the validity of my claims on behalf of Queen should beware the Guinness Book Of British Hit Albums, which, on Page 183, omits the Police's two weeks at number one on the album chart (8/15 November 1986) with 'Every Breath You Take - The Singles' and lists five Oueen albums as number ones under the group's own entry (PIIO) but credits only four in the table of acts with most number one albums on Page 170.

Donna Summer's 'I Don't Wanna

Get Hurt' vaults 12 places to number seven this week. Her last single, 'This Time I Know It's For Real', peaked at number two.

Incredibly, Donna has only once before scored back-to-back top 10 hits, these being 'Love's Unkind' and 'I Love You' in 1977/78.

● ALL THE TENS: 'Express Yourself' enters the singles chart at number 10 this week, to become Madonna's 10th single to debut inside the top 10.

● LIKE A SHOT FROM A ... The remixed version of 'Sweet Child O' Mine' by Guns N' Roses differs very little from the original released last year except in terms of chart success.

Then, before 'Paradise City' gave them a higher profile, 'Sweet Child O' Mine' debuted at number 35 and peaked at number 24. This week the remix bullets onto the chart at number 14.

OUR FRIEND'S ECLECTIC: The occasional alliance between gloomy Gary Numan and Bill Sharpe, the



• QUEEN: "waddya mean we look like we're at an Estate Agents' convention . . . "

keyboards player from Britfunk outfit Shakatak, always seemed unlikely, but it continues and it seems to work.

This week, Bill and Gazza score their fourth joint hit with 'I'm On Automatic'. which debuts at number 44. They previously charted with 'Change Your Mind' (number 17 in 1985), 'New Thing From London Town' (number 52 in 1986) and last year's number 34 hit 'No More Lies'

With 24 of this week's top 75 available in the format, the promised drive by record companies to popularise the cassette single seems to have materialised

THE MIRACLE Queen

PASTPRESENT Clan

TIN MACHINE Tin Machine

THE HITS ALBUM 10 Vario

A NEW FLAME Simply Red

PARADISE Inner City

MIND BOMB The The

BLAST Holly Johnson

Compiled by Gallup

NITE FLITE 2 Various

PRECIOUS METAL Var

DON'T BE CRUEL Bobby Brown

GOOD TO BE BACK Natalie Cole

TW LW

10

11

12 3

13 12

14

15

16 9

17 13

18 16

20 14

17 19

- which is more than can be said for their sales, which currently make up just one percent of the singles market. Meanwhile, with all but 11 of this week's top 75 on compact disc, CD singles retain their eight percent share of sales action.

• Finally, in a particularly cramped area of the chart, where sales differentials this week are minimal, the Beautiful South's 'Song For Whoever' debuts at number 35. Had it sold a mere hundred copies less it would have been placed a couple of notches lower, thus fulfilling the prophetic title of its B-side 'Straight In At

EXTRA NEWS COUNTRY NO SPLIT! BIG

Reports in last week's national press claiming Big Country have split up have been strongly denied by the band's record company. Last Thursday's Guardian newspaper ran an interview with Stuart Adamson blaming the band's trip to Russia last year for debts of £200,000 which, it claimed, had forced the band to quit. Recently cancelled Big Country concerts had helped fuel the story, but a spokesman told rm that these were because of Stuart Adamson's throat problems.

COMPACT DISC

TWELVE INCH

TWLW						
1	2	HELYOM HALIB (ACID ACID ACID) Cappella	Music Man			
2		EXPRESS YOURSELF Madonna	Sire			
3	1	EVERY LITTLE STEP Bobby Brown	MCA			
4	6	MANCHILD Neneh Cherry	Circa			
š	8	UST KEEP ROCKIN' Double Trouble & The Rebel MC	Desire			
6		IT IS TIME TO GET FUNKY D Mob featuring LRS	London			
7	4	BRING ME EDELWEISS Edelweiss	WEA			
8	1	IDON'T WANNA GET HURT Donna Summer	Warner Brothers			
9		SWEET CHILD O'MINE Guns N' Roses	Geffen			
10	5	REQUIEM London Boys	Teldec/WEA			
10	3	I'M EVERY WOMAN (REMIX) Chaka Khan	Warner Brothers			
12	16	FUNKY COLD MEDINATone Loc	Delicious/Fourth & Broadway			
13	7	MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY Natalie Cole	EMIUSA			
14	· ·	IOY AND PAIN Donna Allen	BCM			
19	13	THELOOKRoxette	EMI			
	13	RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM Smitta	Fanfare			
16		FOREVER YOUR GIRL Paula Abdul	Siren			
17	-	FERGUS SINGS THE BLUES Deacon Blue	CBS			
18	14	HANDON YOUR HEART Kylie Minogue	PWL			
19	9	SONG FOR WHOEVER Beautiful South	GO			
20		SONG FOR WHOEVER Beautitul South				

Parlophone CDPCSD107 EMI USA COMTLS1044 STREET FIGHTING YEARS Simple Minds Virgin RCA WHEN THE WORLD KNOWS YOUR NAME Deacon Blue CBS CBS/WEA/BMG THE RAW AND THE COOKED Fine Young Cannibals London MCA Elektra 10 Records KALEIDOSCOPE WORLD Swing Out Sister Fontana Epic PWL TEN GOOD REASONS Jason Donovan EMI USA LIFE IS A DANCE - THE REMIX PROJECT Chaka Khan Warner Brothers MCA CBS Stylus 10 Records CLUB CLASSICS VOLUME ONE Soul II Soul Polydor STEPPIN' TO THE SHADOWS Shadows

	T	HE TOP 100 SINGLES AND LP	S COMPILED FOR IT AND 'TOTP' BY GALLUP			
		SINGLES MAY 28 - 1	UNE 3 1 9 8 9 UKALBUMS			
TW	V LW W	3 FERRY 'CROSS THE MERSEY Various PW	A TOP 75 APTIST ALDUMA			
••	2 3 3 13 4 2 5 8	8 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY Natalie Cole 7 ON THE INSIDE Lynne Hamilton A HAND ON YOUR HEART Kylie Minogue PW				
	5 0 6 4 7 19 8 5	3 MANCHILD Neneh Cherry 10 REQUIEM London Boys 2 I DON'T WANNA GET HURT Donna Summer 6 BRING ME EDELWEISS Edelweiss WER	A 2 1 4 TEN GOOD REASONS Jason Donovan Parlophone PSUI0/ 3 - 3 - 1 TIN MACHINE Tin Machine FMLUSA MTISIA4			
	9 6 10 <u>-</u> 11 12	3 EVERY LITTLE STEP Bobby Brown EXPRESS YOURSELF Madonna Sire W294	A 5 2 4 STREET FIGHTING YEARS Simple Minds CBS B 6 2 25 DON'T BE CRUEL Bobby Brown MCA MCE 2010			
- + + I	12 8 13 26 14 —	I THE LOOK Roxette EM 3 FUNKY COLD MEDINA/ON FIRE Tone Loc Delicious/Fourth & Broadwa	8 3 3 PARADISE Inner City 9 7 16 THE RAW AND THE COOKED Fine Young Cannibals			
1 -	5 21 6 14 17 10	4 CAN I GET A WITNESS Sam Brown 3 FERGUS SINGS THE BLUES Deacon Blue CB:	I0 I2 7 CLUB CLASSICS VOL ONE Soul II Soul I0 Records 1 1 9 15 _A NEW FLAME Simply Red ☆ Elektra 5 12 4 2 MIND BOMB The The ☆ Elektra			
	18 9 19 <u>-</u> 20 38	I WANT IT ALL Queen RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM Sinitta Parlophon Fanfare FANI	A II 3 GOOD TO BE BACK Natalie Cole A II - I LIFE IS A DANCE - THE REMIX PROJECT Chaka Khan Warner Brothers Warner Brothers			
++ 2	21 16 22 36 23 27	2 JUST KEEP ROCKIN' Double Trouble & The Rebel MC Desir 5 DON'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD Stefan Dennis Sublim 5 I DROVE ALL NIGHT Cyndi Lauper Epi	CA CCA CA CA			
	24 33 25 —	2 THE REAL ME WASP 3 PINK SUNSHINE Fuzzbox 1 IT IS TIME TO GET FUNKY D Mob featuring LRS RECondon F10	A 19 21 10 LIKE A PRAYER Madonna Sire 20 16 26 REMOTE Hue And Cry			
▲ 2	26 15 27 11 28 31 29 18	6 ELECTRIC YOUTH Debbie Gibson Atlanti 18 ETERNAL FLAME the Bangles CBS 4 CHANGE HIS WAYS Robert Palmer EM 3 MY BRAVE FACE Paul McCarney Backeton	21 19 20 EVERYTHING the Bangles CBS 52 15 3 KALEIDOSCOPE WORLD Swing Out Sister Fontana 1 23 18 2 BLIND MAN'S 200 10,000 Manjacs Fontana			
•• 3	10 <u>–</u>	I FOREVER YOUR GIRL Paula Abdul Siren SRN1 (II BEDS ARE BURNING Midnight Oil Sprint/CB	24 26 47 KYLIE THE ALBUM Kylie Minogue 25 22 8 POP ART Transvision Vamp MCA			
	12 40 13 37 14 49	2 ONE BETTER WORLD ABC NOTHIN (THAT COMPARES 2 U) Jacksons 5 I WONT BACK DOWN Tom Petty MCA	27 28 13 STOP Sam Brown A&M 28 17 4 DISINTEGRATION the Cure A&M 29 23 2 WORKIN' OVERTIME Disp. Rese Fiction			
+ 3 3	15 <u></u>	2 PSYCHONAUT Fields Of The Nephilim Situation Two 5 ROOMS ON FIRE Stevie Nicks EM	30 32 8 GIPSY KINGS Gipsy Kings Telstar			
4	0 25	10 AMERICANOS Holly Johnson MCA 1 LOVE MADE ME Vizen EMI USA MT46 7 WHO'S IN THE HOUSE Beatmasters With Merlin King	33 36 8 FOREVER YOUR GIRL Paula Abdul 34 30 17 OPEN UP AND SAY AAHI Poison			
	2	I JOY AND PAIN Donna Allen BCM BCM25 5 VIOLENTLY Hue And Cry	36 34 91 BAD Michael Jackson 37 44 37 ANCIENT HEART Tanita Tikaram			
4	5 <u>28</u> 6 <u>29</u>	9 IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW Simply Red Elektra 4 LOVE ATTACK Shakin' Stevens Enic	39 58 11 LOC'ED AFTER DARK Tone Loc Delicious/Fourth & Broadway 40 31 11 SOUTHSIDE Texas Mercury			
	8 30	2 WALTZ DARLING Malcolm McLaren/Bootzilla Orchestra 6 YOUR MAMA DON'T DANCE Poison 3 FREE Stevie Wonder Motown	42 35 8 HEY HEY IT'S THE MONKEES — GREATEST HITS Monkees 43 33 28 WANTED Yazz			
50 5 5	45	6 WHERE HAS ALL THE LOVE GONE Yazz 12 KEEP ON MOVIN' Soul II Soul featuring Caron Wheeler ID Records MY TELEPHONE Coldcut	45 29 3 BARRY MANILOW Barry Manilow Arista ← 46 - I THROUGH THE STORM Aretha Franklin Arista Arista 29942			
 S: S4 S5 	4 47	4 GRACELAND the Bible Chrysalis 3 CLOSE MY EYES FOREVER (REMIX) Lita Ford with Ozzy Osbourne RCA	17 40 33 KATTLE AND HUM U2			
	6 <u>–</u> 7 57	ORA NGE CRUSH REM. Polydor JOY AND PAIN Maze (eaturing Frankie Beverly Warner Brothers W2960 U + ME = LOVE Funky Worm FON/WEA	50 47 5 DODLITILE Paxies 4AD 51 39 2 LARGER THAN LIFE Jody Watley 4AD 52 66 8 THE HEADLESS CHILDREN WASP Graduate			
	9 75 0 34	2 CRY Waterfront 6 I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU Bon Jovi Vertigo Vertigo	33 37 3 COMING ALIVE AGAIN Barbara Dickson Teistar 54 56 59 TRACY CHAPMAN Tracy Chapman ★ ★ ★ Elektra 55 46 32 MONEY FOR NOTHING Dire Straits ★ ★ ★ Elektra			
 62 63 	2 39	5 DISAPPOINTED Public Image Ltd Virgin 2 WALKING ON SUNSHINE (TIM SIMENON REMIX) Eddy Grant	57 52 11 THREE FEET HIGH AND RISING DE La Soul Big Life/Tommy Boy 58 51 18 SHOOTING RUBBERBANDS AT THE STARS Edge Brickell & New Bohemians, Geffen			
•• 64 65 •• 66	5 42	I WORK IT TO THE BONE LNR Blue Wave/Parlophone 5 WORKIN' OVERTIME Diana Ross Kool Kat KOOL50I 1 DOWNTOWN One 2 Many EMI	60 67 76 RAINTOWN Deacon Blue CBS 61 55 27 GREATEST HITS Fleetwood Mac			
67 68 69	43 44	8 GOOD THING Fine Young Cannibals London 9 YOU ON MY MIND Swing Out Sister Fontana	62 53 3) TRAVELING WILBURYS Traveling Wilburys			
70) 41 62	SHAKIN' THE TREE Youssou N'Dour/Peter Gabriel Wirgin VSII67 MY LOVE IS SO RAW Alyson Williams featuring Nikki D ONE Metallica SCOTTISH RAIN the Silencers	65 63 12 GN RLIES Guns N'Roses Geffen 67 40 15 ELECTRIC YOUTH Debbie Gibson			
 ◆ 72 ◆ 73 ◆ 73 74 75 	81 58	A GOOD FISH MAIN the silencers RCA. GOOD GOOD FEELING Eric & The Good Good Feeling Equinox LIKE A PRAYER Madonna Sire	68 — 34 FLYING COLOURS Chris De Burgh A&MARGE 69 68 93 HYSTERIA Del Leppard A&M AMAS224 70 59 4 IN YOUR FACE Kingdom Come Bludgeon Riffola			
← 76 77 ← 78	64	WHERE WERE YOU Adult Net IT'S YOUR TIME Arthur Baker featuring Shirley Lewis A&W C TILINE Arthur Baker featuring Shirley Lewis A&M	71 — 211 BROTHERS IN ARMS Dire Straits Vertigo VERH25 72 — 32 NEW LIGHT THROUGH OLD WINDOWS Chris Rea WEA WX200 73 — 96 HEARSAY/ALL MIXED UP Alexander O'Neal Tabut 4603261			
	121	ALWAYS THERE Charvoni Syncopate SY28 LET'S DANCE Sweet Tee Profile PROF246 BONNIE WEE JEANNIE MCCALL Stuart Anderson Scotdisc ITV75481	74 62 25 ROACHFORD Roachford CBS 75 — 29 THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION Bryan Ferry/Roxy Music CBS EGE EGTV2			
	76	BREAKOUT James Taylor Quartet STREETS OF YOUR TOWN Go-Betweens AIN'T NOTHING' TO IT K-9 Posse BPA VER OF ANTICIDATION OF A Construction of the Antista	TOP 20 COMPILATION ALBUMS			
●● 85 ●● 86	001	PRAYER Claytown Troupe Island IS417 WITNESS FOR THE WORLD Cry Before Dawn Epic STILL WAITING Kechia Jenkins Profile PROF250	TW LW W/C			
●● 87 ● 88 89	93 78	I FEEL THE POWER Vow Wow Arista VWW3 LET'S GO DJ Fast Eddie Westside/DJ International JUST LIKE HEAVEN Dinosaur Jr Blast First	2 1 4 NITE FLITE 2 Various CBS 3 3 2 PRECIOUS METAL Various Stylus ●● 4 1 THE CHART SHOW DANCE MASTERS Various Date OD 2			
90 91 93 92	Ξ	GOODBYE LITTLE BOY Triffids Island CALLING OUT TO CAROL Stan Ridgway IRS EIRS106 PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE MUSIC Burrell 10 Records TEN364	5 2 10 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC 14 Various EMI/Virgin/Polygram 6 5 21 DIRTY DANCING Original Soundtrack 24 26 7 4 7 DEEP HEAT — THE SECOND BURN Various Taking			
•• 92 •• 94 •• 95 96	89	IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR Maloko MR. D.J. Joyce 'Fenderella' I/by Motorov 7.841371	8 8 THE SINGER AND THE SONG Various Stylus 9 7 21 BUSTER Original Soundtrack \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$			
●● 97 ●● 98	87	OPEN UP YOUR HEART Raiana Paige Sleeping Bag SBUKIO THE PRISONER Howard longs WEA UOVIA	II 9 3 THE CHART SHOW — ROCK THE NATION 2 Various Dover 12 13 21 GOOD MORNING VIETNAM Original Soundtrack A&M AMA3913 13 12 21 SOFT METAL Various Software			
100	94	YOUR LUCK'S CHANGED Skin Games Epic SGA4 AFTER ALL Cher & Peter Cetera Geffen	14 10 21 THE BLUES BROTHERS Original Soundtrack Adjantic 15 11 21 PREMIERE COLLECTION Andrew Lloyd Webber ☆☆ Really Useful			
			17 18 21 THE GREATEST LOVE Various Teistar 18 16 21 MORE DIRTY DANCING Original Soundtrack Teistar			
	^A Platinum (600,000), □ Gold (400,000 sales), ○ Silver (200,000 sales) ²⁰ ²⁰ ²¹ ^{THE LOST BOYS Original Soundtrack Atlantic ^A ★ A Triple Platinum (900,000 sales), ☆ Double Platinum (600,000}					
+						





MANSFIELD, COOK, JECZALIK, SAUNDERS, HORNER, SHILLING, DORRELL, MORAN, BEN-YELLES, MORTON, SHERMAN, BELLUCCI, MANTRONIK, THE SLEEPERS.

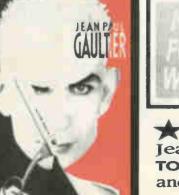
Friday, May 28, 1989 1.541£ Yesterday's sale: 3 Thought: A lettle-beet-of-zis-lettle-beet-of-zat!

REMIX VIRUS TAKES OVER BODY & SOUL

Froggy couturier states:

" I'm prepared to do anything... and everything to be in the top 20

with my new album " Et voilà



TOU DOUZA

FOR FORTHCOMIN NORLD TOUR ...

Parisian designer Jean-Paul Gaultier TORN between fashion and music...



