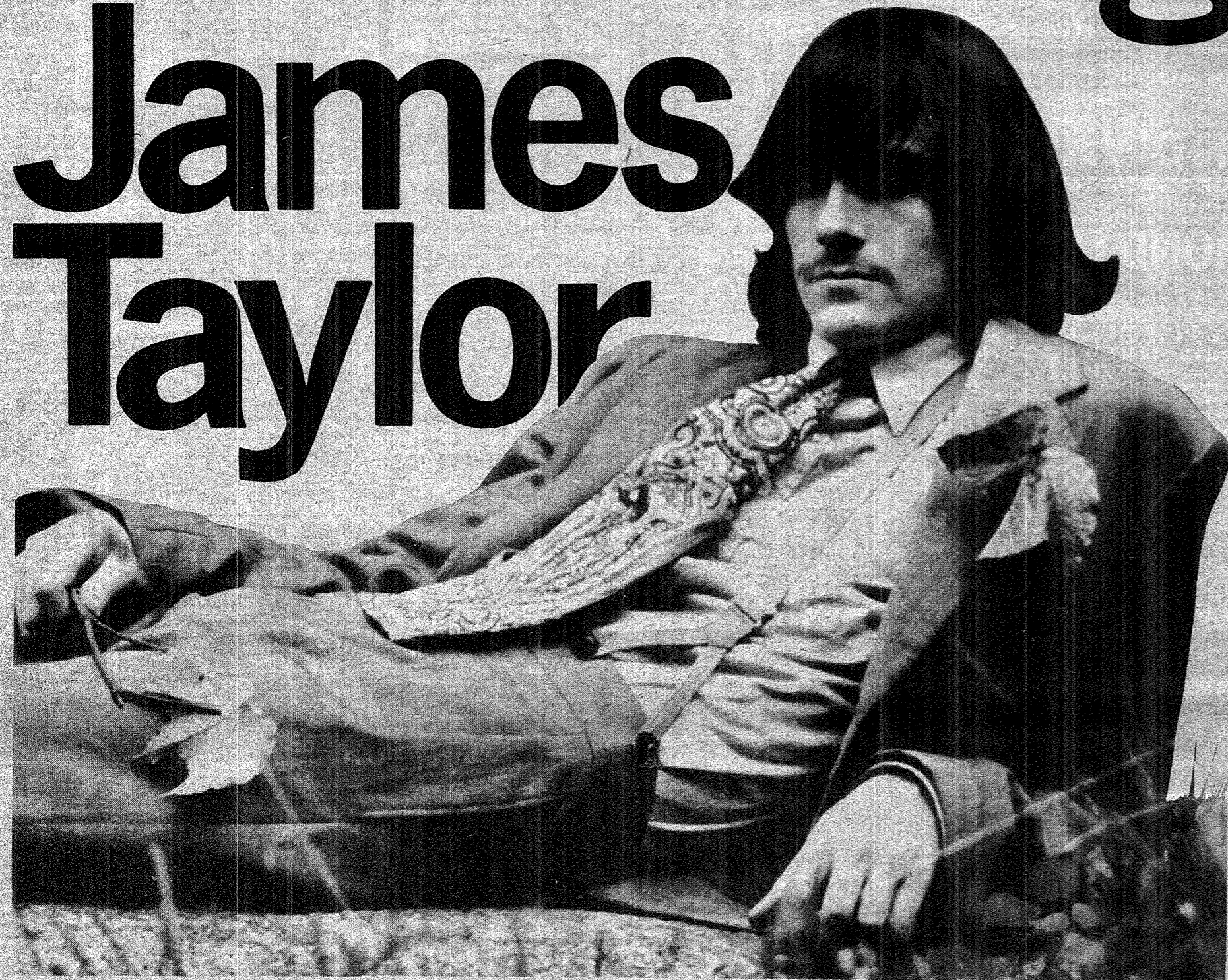


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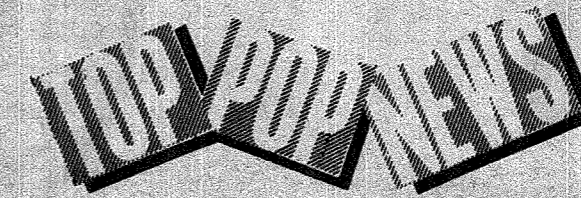
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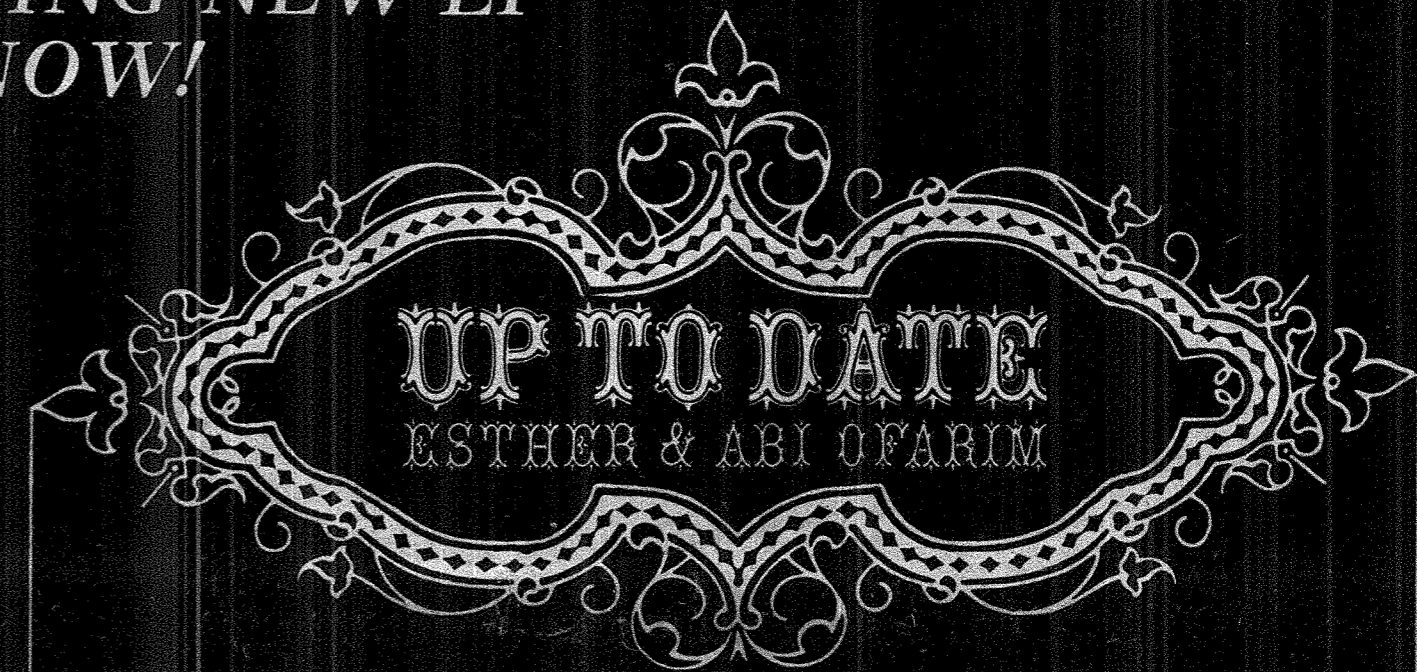
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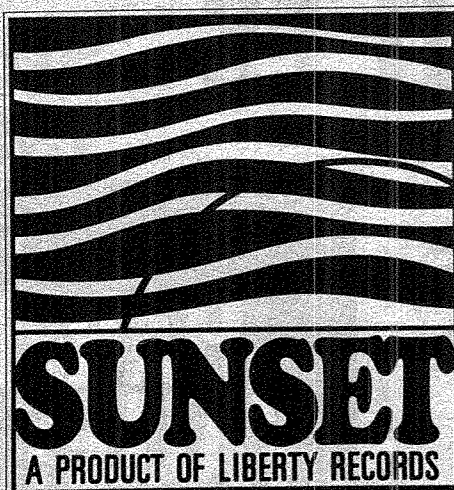
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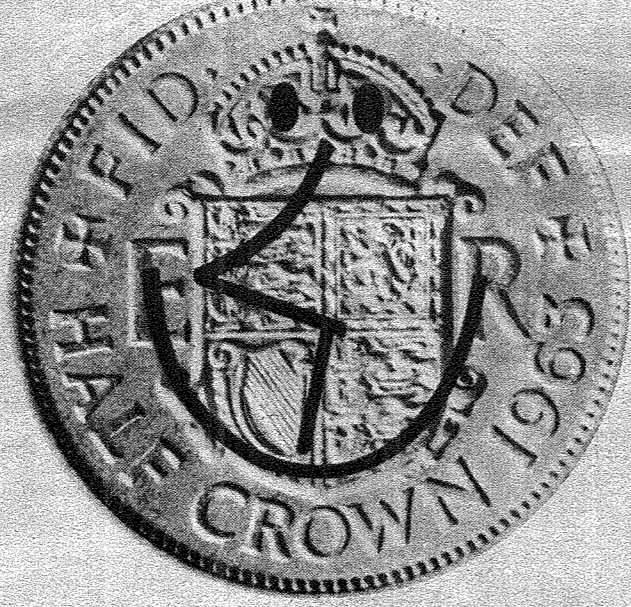
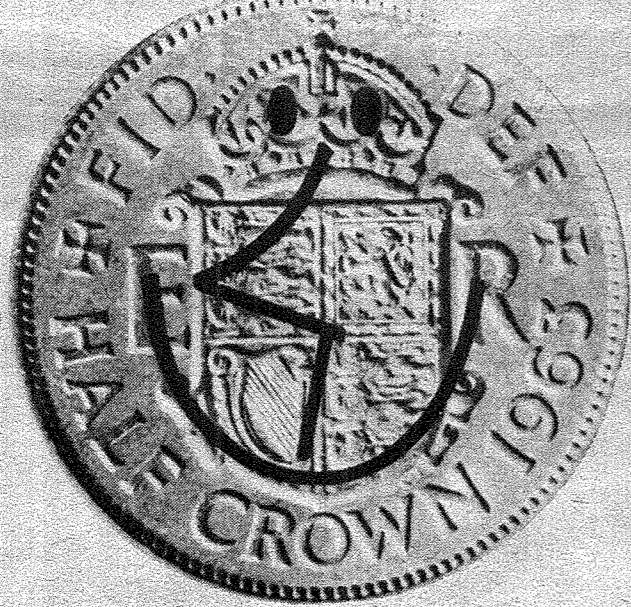
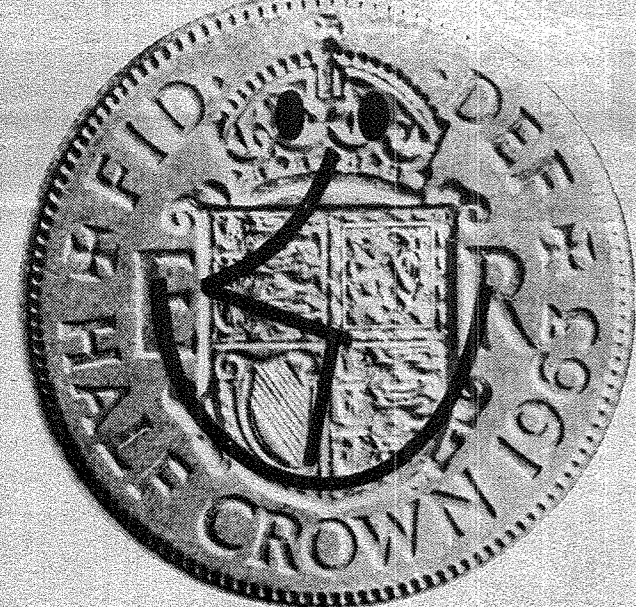
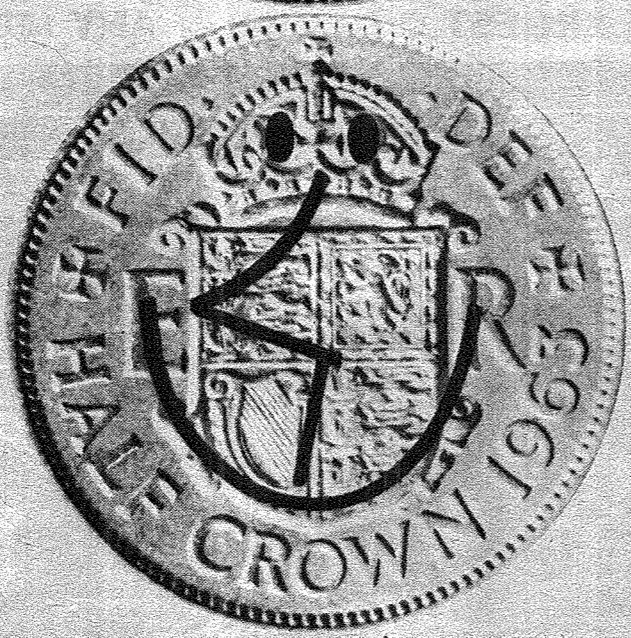
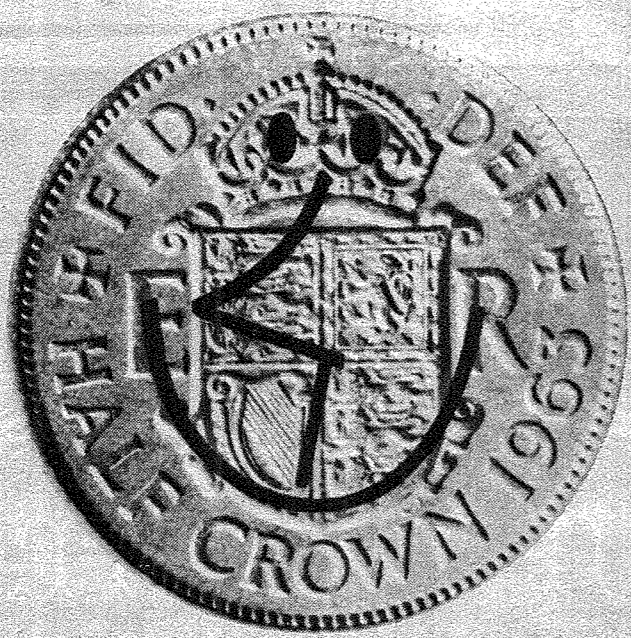
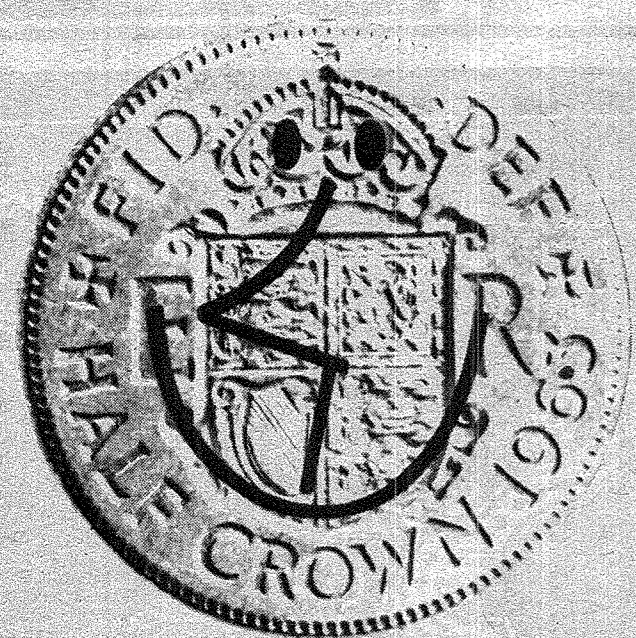


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CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Have an idea? (2 words)
- 5 Finally performed at the Albert Hall (and 28 down) This guy's in love with you (2 words)
- 10 One of Sinatra's hit
- 11 Amen Corner's record label
- 12 This singer has faith!
- 13 Sings with his family
- 14 Mr. Hendricks' jazz
- 15 Louis Armstrong's label
- 16 A cowardly sub?
- 17 Another member of the Clon
- 21 Comes from Knotty Ash
- 24 Edmunds
- 25 Employ
- 26 This Mills is no mister
- 27 The chicken's house
- 28 Mr. Newley asked "Do you Harry Mason's partner in song
- 32 Dad — or type of music!
- 35 Bald actor?
- 36 Miss Fitzgerald
- 38 Sang to Jackie and Joanna
- 39 Mr. Winter
- 40 Mr. Geiz, jazzman
- 41 Music on sound-
- 42 Mr. Davis

CLUES DOWN

- 2 A brother duo

ANSWERS NEXT WEEK AND HERE IS LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2, Norma (Tanega); 5, Kim (Weston); 7, Ma; 9, Pet; 10, Michelle (William); 12, Anita; 14, Ella (Fitzgerald); 17, Millicent (Martin); 18, Nina (Simone); 19, Tandy; 20, Jane (Asher); 21, Spy; 22, Pat (Arnold); 25, (Vikki Carr); 27, Cleo (Laine); 29, Shaw; 30, Lulu; 31, Jackie (Trent); 33, (Lindy) Clay; 34, Cora; 35, Clark; 37, Dusty.

DOWN: 1, Kiki (Dee); 3, Millie (Small); 4, Tim; 6, (Madeline) Bell; 8, Felice (Taylor); 10, Mama; 11, Cilla Black; 13, Nancy (Sinatra); 14, Etta (James); 15, Lynda; 16, (Diana) Ross; 22, Pooey; 23, Deanna (Webster); 26, (Jeannie C.) Riley; 28, Sick; 31, Julie (Dracon); 32, Mary (Hopkin); 36, Sue (Nicholls).



JOHNNY JOHNSON (left) and the BANDWAGON (1 to 4) TERRY LEWIS, BILLY BRADLEY and ARTHUR FULLILOVE pictured at the Revolution Club in London recently when CBS held a reception celebrating their arrival from America the previous day and their Top Ten hit "Breaking Down The Walls Of Heartache" — No. 5 this week. On the strength of their appearance at the club, the group's visit has been extended from 6 to 11 weeks, including trips to the Continent and CBS plans to release an album on its Direction label before Christmas.

TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

TWO great groups combine on their next single — Diana Ross and the Supremes join forces with the Temptations for "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me". Congratulations John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr: Gold Disc for million sales of Beatles' new LP... His version of Jeannie C. Riley's hit on first Leapy Lee album.

U.S. concert tour for Dusty Springfield — with probable co-star O. C. Smith. Likely to replace Scaffold at No. 1 — Des O'Connor or the Foundations are favourites... Surprisingly, Bing Crosby to record Beatles' "Hey Jude".

Canned Heat join forces with Chipmunks for Christmas single... First John Rowles hit just covered by Nick De Caro for U.S. market... Her agent Dick Katz in New York discussing Lulu film deal.

Huge U.S. advance for Leapy Lee's first LP... Pat's Louis Bennett expected to elevate Geoffrey Bridge's position... and will be sign Rex Oldfield, ex-MGM chief... First hit for Colin Berlin's new publishing firm — Love Sculpture's current success... Sold: Adam Faith's Kensington house... In Las Vegas, Jose Feliciano appearing on Frank Sinatra's cabaret bill... Insists publisher Tony Barrow: timeless contract for Gerry Marsden in "Charlie Girl"; perhaps Anthony Bygraves under consideration by Harold Fielding for touring version? Formed by Nancy Sinatra: re-

GREAT NEW SINGLE

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SEASONS IN THE SUN
UP 2239

PRODUCED BY MICHAEL D'ABO

the Dave Dee group) married receptionist Suzanne Fryer. How about Miracles for pantomime in "Smoky Robinson Crusoe"? Great band show: Johnny Harris (BBC-2, Sunday)... Is Danny La Rue this year's Randolph Sutton? "Daily Express" critic James Thomas' attack unjustified on Beatles and Rolling Stones... Like old times: Isley Brothers, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell and the Four Tops giving Tamla four chart entries... Jimmy Logan's TV duet with Val Dooniken embarrassing... The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band's hit could be re-titled by Maharishi Yogi: "Turkish Snaceman".

First three in newcomers poll (Mary Hopkin, Joe Cocker and Barry Ryan) all topped charts recently... Elvis Presley fans certainly remain loyal to Jordanaires... Diana Ross a heavy gambler... Lulu under consideration for next summer's London Palladium season... Current Foundations hit first big Mike D'Abbo composing success — partnered by Tony Macaulay... Next Frank Sinatra LP arranged and conducted by Billy Strange... Decca not giving free Rennie's "Rolling Stones" "Beggars Banquet" LP... Is Dusty Springfield's latest single dedicated to David Frost, "Son Of Preacher-Man"? "Avenger" Linda Thorsen very friendly with Kenny Lynch... Holidaying in Barbados: Des O'Connor... In Las Vegas cabaret Eddie Fisher stopped his act to make Tom Jones sing on stage... Happy event for Mike McGear's wife Susan... If they get married, will John Lennon and Yoko Ono honeymoon in Naked City?... Suzzie "Tiger" Mathis should wax "I'm A Lulu"... Bobby Goldsboro sings title song for David Janssen's "Where It's At" film... Is Joe Cocker-hoop at Poll success?... "Daily Express" pop writer Robin Turner joining Stigwood office as publicist?... Pantomime debut by Lionel Morton (ex-leader of Four Pennies) this Christmas... Marion Ryan guests on next Mike and Bernie Winters TV show... Who said Crusty Springfield?... As Jose Feliciano's "Fire" fades, RCA reissues Chet Atkins' version... Good noise week for Scaffold?... How about John Lennon's retitled version of Beatles' "I Feel Fine"???

German singer Caterina Valente recording here with Edmundo Ros and his orchestra... Paul Jones' discs now produced by Norman Newell... Their next singles: O. C. Smith "Isn't It Lonely Together", Mason Williams "Saturday Night At The World" and Bobby Goldsboro "Look Around You".

Nose operation for Kenny Everett next week... Tich (of

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FAREWELL SHOW SADDENED THE CREAM



CREAM, pictured at rehearsals for their farewell concerts (1 to 3) JACK BRUCE, GINGER BAKER and ERIC CLAPTON

THE deification of the Cream was completed at the Royal Albert Hall around 11 o'clock on Tuesday of last week when the pulse of the last of their two encores melted into the tumult and applause and when the last clap and the final heartfelt plea of "God Save The Cream" had faded away into an atmosphere of high emotion.

Five thousand united voices hit a cry of rapture and a shower of confetti launched from the front row cascaded over Eric Clapton's bowed head. An ecstatic fan who had prepared himself all evening for this chance charged across the side of the stage and ran off in jubilation and triumph, brandishing his "spoils" — Ginger's drumsticks — in the air. The Cream was all over.

Jack, Eric and Ginger will rise again in different guises, in different spheres, but Tuesday night's farewell performance put the Cream as a unit in its place in pop history alongside Haley, the Beatles, Presley and others.

On Monday afternoon this week, Jack and Eric were to be found at the IBC Studios near Radio One-land in Portland Place where, I was told, they were recording.

Ginger was notable for his absence and so too was any semblance of work when I arrived — to find Jack, Eric and their American record producer Felice Pappalardi chatting together in a small circle at one end of the deserted studio.

"We were just discussing our breakfast," offered Eric as a welcome.

We talked about the concerts, which had been a sad occasion for them also, and Jack confessed: "I was really depressed for two or three days afterwards. It was quite moving; I just didn't expect it."

Eric, who was wearing a magnificent crocheted coat of many colours made by a loving fan, agreed: "We didn't really expect anything like that. It was a great reception, as good as any we have had anywhere. I don't want to knock American audiences but

They're surprised and a little guilty now that it's all over

By NICK LOGAN

concerts in the American farewell grounds, the different points of reference — the conglomeration that resulted was such a vast compromise to what we would all have liked to do as individuals.

"Maybe we will all get together to play again some time in the future and there is no reason why we should not appear on each other's records, though it wouldn't be a big publicised thing if we did so."

And what of the future, which

some people there and try some things out. It will be very much a trial and error thing."

"What of the widely-held belief that Eric wants to return to the blues?"

"The Cream never really played that much blues," he answered. "I think we aimed to start a revolution in musical thought. We set out to change the world, to upset people and to shock them. At the start we were going to play Elvis Presley numbers — but what happened was that we fell into doing these long instrumental pieces. Really the Cream was just an instrumental group."

"When I play on my own it includes various blues figures, twelve bar things, Chuck Berry and so loosely around that."

"The sound will be bluesy, but I am not going to start playing 'Dust My Broom' or things like that."

How does he feel about the intellectualising of the Cream?

"It doesn't matter how you dig it as long as you like it. Some of the lyrics we write might not mean anything to anyone else... but it's all above my head because I never thought we were as good as they thought we were."

"The public appreciation always surprised me because I never thought we really got it together to deserve that much acclaim," he concluded with remarkable honesty.

Last time I saw Jack he told me that the Cream had really reached its peak while on their last but one tour of the States and it was sad that the British audiences had not had a chance to see them at their height.

At the two Albert Hall concerts, 10,000 were witness to the peak they have reached while thousands more were unable to get in — and ironically it was their last performance.

"Yes, I do feel rather pally about that," he said. "I must admit," said Eric, whose breakfast arrived at that minute. And I left him eating his cornflakes.

"Maybe in January or February I will go into a studio and get

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GUN ARE A VERY STRANGE GROUP

ACCORDING to their publicist the Gun are, "the Brain" — ADRIAN CURTIS who has a fantastic hairstyle like an electrified busby; "the Business-man" — PAUL CURTIS who boasts a ginger moustache and LOUIS FARRELL who "just sits there and looks cute!"

As NME's Keith Altham recently discovered

"Six months ago we were so brought down when our organist failed to turn up one night, and left us in the lurch, we were prepared to chuck it all in," admitted Adrian.

Impressed

Jazz man Ronnie Scott heard the group playing at the London Roundhouse and was sufficiently impressed to book them for his new club, where I was now talking to them.

"The people we most admire are the Beatles — not that we are trying to emulate them — but they are three brilliant musicians and groups like Family who have never compromised their musical integrity. If ever a group deserved a hit it's them."

It was Adrian who wrote "Race With The Devil" and he believes, unlike some, that it is the "Diddle do dah dee" guitar riff which has caught the public's imagination and not the maniacal laugh on the disc.

"We never wanted the laugh on the record at all," said Adrian. "We knew it would let us in for a lot of you're copying Arthur Brown remarks. Our producer



The GUN (l. to r.) PAUL CURTIS, the moustached; ADRIAN "Hair" CURTIS and LOUIS "the cute" FARRELL

they put on this tremendous show of lights and weird exciting sounds.

I bet half the audience thought they were all on LSD but you go backstage and Sid Barrett's saying something like, "Get my coat George, and someone else is asking for a cup of tea. It's all in the mind."

"I just sit here and groove all on my tod," said Louis for no apparent reason.

Manager Jimmy Parsons flitted by our table and observed that "MacArthur Park" was the best pop-song of the year to which Adrian remarked something about "all the cakes walking about in the rain — it's a shame!"

Adrian would also like to make it clear that the Gun have never been Terry Reid's backing group as some people seem to think, and that he is very disappointed that the Moles have turned out to be Simon Dupree and two of the Big Sound.

Life, however must go on!

WHO'S WHERE

Week beginning Dec 8

BEACH BOYS: BARRY RYAN, VANITY FAIR: London Finsbury Park Astoria (8), Glasgow Odeon (10).

BANDWAGON: Bexley Black Prince (8), Parley Orchid (9), Guildhall Civic Hall (10), Sevenoaks Bligh Hotel (11), Orgington Daylight Inn and London Sybil's (12), Edgware White Lion (13), Nottingham Boat Club (14), Tolworth Toby Jug (15).

JOE COCKER: Tolworth Toby Jug (8), Warwick University (10), Wolverhampton Civic Hall (12), Rawstertall Astoria (14), Harley Place (15), Taunton County (16).

GUN: Hampstead Country Club (8), York Langworth College (12), Birmingham Arts Lab (13), Birmingham Factory (14), Kidderminster Frank Freeman's Club (15).

SHOW/CABARET

GEORGIE FAME: Stockton Fiesta for one week from the 8th.

JOHN ROWLES: Middlesbrough Showboat for one week from the 8th.

MALCOLM ROBERTS: Wakefield Theatre Club for one week from the 13th.

LEAPY LEE: South Shields Latino & Newcastle Dixie Vita for one week from the 13th.

Johnny Goodson thought it was a good idea so we went along with it.

One of the best unkept secrets in showbusiness circles at present is just how the Gun got that maniacal cackle of Adrian's on disc. All I can reveal in print is that "cute lovable Louis" is at the bottom of it all.

When questioned about it during the interview he seemed to get highly confused and disappeared under a table allegedly looking for his "magic penny!"

Now that Gun have one foot in the door of success they are determined not to let it slip in their faces.

Adrian is already hard at work

turning out new compositions like "Rat Race", "Sad Saga Of The Boy And The Bee" and "Yellow Cab" which is likely to be their next single for which one of their co-managers Jimmy Parsons has supplied the lyric.

A kick

"You can't imagine what a kick it is to go on stage and get applauded before you've done anything because you're known," said Adrian. "This happened to us for the first time in Plymouth recently and the audience was so great. I just wanted to go on playing all night."

"I don't understand all these people who go all weird and start in on LSD and meditating. I could never get any satisfaction out of anything but playing!"

They have all the earmarks of a group who would go down very well on the American West Coast. Does this mean we may shortly lose them in the big beat drain to the United States.

"It's funny how people always seem to get a big reaction if they come from far away," interposed Adrian. "We went to see Blue Cheer at the Roundhouse recently and they were so disgusting they hurt my ears but because they were from America they got a big hand."

The Gun are very aware of the pseudo "underground" scene which exists more in the public's imagination than with the groups.

"Take the Pink Floyd for example," said Adrian. "We want to hear them the other night and

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SUPREMES DON'T WANT TO SHOCK — volatile Diana tells Alan Smith

OWN-UP time — I thought Tamla was a gonner, and then the Isley Brothers appeared again as if from nowhere, and now Diana Ross and the Supremes are up there in the NME Chart with the story of an illegitimate babe and love, child.

Tigerish Diana is not exactly my cup of tea, due to the fact that she often seems to be in a bad temper and liable to erupt at any given moment. Mary Wilson, though, is something else. She is a lovely and supremely friendly girl who came up to me backstage at the Palladium and said: "Well hi — I could never forget that face." This I am still thinking about.

Cindy still does not have much to say, but to dwell on Mary for a moment, when all those millions of you saw the Royal Variety Show on TV you saw her with a sophisticated hairstyle that pulled away the moment she got back home.

Underneath she was that wild frizzy "I'm black and proud of it" look that says more than she does. Probably an attractive Negro encounters less prejudice than an unattractive Negro (life being what it is), but Mary has no doubt felt the pain from time to time.

She was in full agreement with that supposedly controversial "Martin Luther King" statement by Diana at the Royal show, though why a straightforward hope that people be happy should be controversial is hard to imagine. Some people must warm up easily.

No flop

In fact, any admirer of Diana Ross and the Supremes must have been surprised and hurt to read of their "flop" at this performance, as described in a couple of daily newspapers, and then surprised and staggered to see what really happened when the act came up on TV. If a reception like that amounts to a flop then I'd settle for it anytime.

Speaking to the unpredictable Miss Ross before the Supremes returned to America, I found her understandably unrepentant at the whole thing.

"I include the message of Dr. King everywhere I go," she said. "It isn't meant to shock, and I

don't want people to hold up their hands in horror. Why should they? And is there any reason why we shouldn't mention such things in front of Royalty, when they are aware of the world's problems as much as anyone else? I've said the same things before President Johnson."

In spite of this hope for black-brown-yellow peaceful co-existence, Diana says she isn't completely out of sympathy with Black Power fanatics in the States who would use force to achieve their aims.

Said Diana with some feeling: "If it wasn't for people like Stokely Carmichael, then things wouldn't be improving the way they are today. The militants have their place."

"You need someone to be proud of. My brother isn't any different because he has kinky hair and he doesn't have a pointed nose — he's just as beautiful."

So how about music? According to Mary and Cindy, there's no real change in the Supremes' recording policy. As Tamla's most-in-demand and most-travelled group, they don't get into the studio as much as they would wish. But then, the situation has been like that for some time.

"We travel so much," said Mary brightly (and this was backstage at the Royal show rehearsals, with her standing there all figure hugging and slinky and glittering), "and sometimes it's enough just thinking about my health and keeping myself trim."



The SUPREMES pictured during their recent visit to London (l to r) CINDY BIRDSONG, DIANA ROSS and MARY WILSON

June Harris in New York

AMERICA CALLING JOOLS, BRIAN WITH MONKEES ON TV SPECIAL

Ann Moses in Hollywood

BY the time you read this, despite the musicians' strike, Jools and the Brian Auger Trinity will have completed their special guest spot in the Monkees TV special, and will be on the road finishing up a series of six dates with the Crazy World of Arthur Brown.

Remaining in the U.S. until around December 15, Julie and Brian will also play some dates on their own with the hope that even at this late stage, they will be able to come into New York.

Meantime, it's encouraging to note that their current single, "Road to Cairo," is beginning to chalk up some sales in the south.

MAYALL, MOODIES TO RETURN IN 1969

ON the British group front, the underground units from England continue to gain momentum here. John Mayall will return in February for a three month tour commencing the 25th, and the Moody Blues, who last weekend played dates with Jeff Beck and 10 Years After at the Shrine in Los Angeles, will also come back early in the New Year.

Spencer Davis is staying through January since his tour is going so well and he's having a ball lecturing at all these colleges. Jeff Beck will be back for another blockbuster around March, and 10 Years After are being set for more dates in February.

Led Zeppelin, under the leadership of Jimmy Page, will be here at the end of December, and of course, Jethro Tull will make his first trip early in the New Year.

NEW to the charts

Amen's Andy tipped Love Sculpture

The LOVE SCULPTURE (l to r) CONGO JONES, JOHN WILLIAMS and DAVE EDMONDS

AMEN CORNER'S Andy Fairweather-Low has recently been bending my ear about a Welsh trio called Love Sculpture who, he felt sure, were going to be big.

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The LOVE SCULPTURE (l to r) CONGO JONES, JOHN WILLIAMS and DAVE EDMONDS

AMEN CORNER'S Andy Fairweather-Low has recently been bending my ear about a Welsh trio called Love Sculpture who, he felt sure, were going to be big.

This week, the group takes its first step towards proving him right as it enters the NME chart with its updated version of Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance."

It has been arranged for 1968 presentation by lead guitarist Dave Edmunds, who is 24 and comes from Cardiff. After that, guitarist is 22 year-old John Williams, also from Cardiff and on drums is Barry-born Congo Jones (22).

Love Sculpture travelled to London to guest on "Top Gear" where they knocked John Peel out with "Sabre Dance." He was so impressed that he actually rearranged the rest of the show so that the group could play the number again!

The audience reaction was tremendous. So much mail rolled in that the group had to be re-booked. Comments Dave: "After that, we got dates all over Britain and everywhere people asked us to play 'Sabre Dance.' The trouble was, people thought we had recorded it, but we hadn't."

So they did and it was put out two weeks ago and began selling right away. Many of the group's fans had seen them regularly at the Marquee (yet another group making it big after appearing there), and people like the Nice and Jethro Tull became admirers of the trio's style and sound.

RICHARD GREEN

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PHILIPS

BONZO DOGS ADMIT IT'S A BIG CON!

IDEALLY, a Bonzo Dog's home would be like those "Crazy Houses" in seaside amusement parks and his life would be one ridiculous merry-go-round of exploding chairs, collapsing ceilings and machines running beserk. If that's what you'd expect, you'd be disappointed with Bonzo leader Vivian Stanshall's abode in sedate Hampstead Garden Suburb.

By NICK LOGAN

Viv was at work on Bonzo material when I called round last week and was to be found in an elegantly furnished sitting room, the tranquility and peace of which swung along with the pendulum of the clock on the wall.

that Viv doesn't live in Vivian Way, which is the next road along, but it must be said that the inimitable Mr Stanshall is no let down and the house he calls home—it is his mother-in-law's—is not without its surprises.

LIFE LINES of THE MARBLES



TREVOR
 Professional names: Trevor Gordon
 Real names: Trevor Gordon Grunhill
 Birth date: May 5, 1948
 Birthplace: Skegness
 Personal points: Height 5ft 10in; weight 11st; colour of eyes green; colour of hair brown
 Parents names: Gordon, Elsie
 Present home: Gordon, Elsie
 Instruments played: Guitar, bass, piano, mellotron
 Where educated: 13 schools in England and Australia
 Musical education: Self taught
 Age entered show business: 7 years
 First public appearance: Blackpool Pier, 1960
 First professional appearance: Johnny O'Keefe TV show, Australia, 1961
 Biggest break in career: Own TV show in Australia, 1961
 TV debut: Australian TV, 1961
 Radio debut: Australian Radio, 1962
 Own TV series past or present: Trevor Gordon's Children's Theatre, Australia
 Other labels in past: "Leedon", Australia
 Biggest influence on career: Pop music and films
 Former occupations: None
 Hobbies: Film making and girls
 Favourite colour: Any
 Favourite food: Steak
 Favourite clothes: Comfortable
 Favourite drink: Milk, orange juice
 Favourite singer: Robin Gibb
 Favourite actor/actress: Hayley Mills
 Favourite bands/instrumentalists: "Bluesology", John Bluesology, Bert Weedon, Ravi Shankar
 Favourite composers: Us, Lennon/McCartney, Paul Simon, Bee Gees
 Favourite groups: Beatles, Bee Gees, Simon and Garfunkel
 Miscellaneous dislikes: Bad design
 Miscellaneous likes: Music, films
 Best friend: Graham and Robert Masters
 Origin of stage name: Barry Gibb's Brain-Blast
 Personal ambition: To be successful
 Professional ambition: To write lasting music and show how to change the scene, yeah!

GRAHAM

Graham Bonnet
 Real name: Graham Bonnet
 Birth date: December 12, 1947
 Birthplace: Skegness
 Personal points: Height 5ft 10in; weight 11st; colour of eyes green; colour of hair brown
 Parents names: Gordon, Elsie
 Present home: Gordon, Elsie
 Instruments played: Guitar, bass, piano, mellotron
 Where educated: 13 schools in England and Australia
 Musical education: Self taught
 Age entered show business: 7 years
 First public appearance: Blackpool Pier, 1960
 First professional appearance: Johnny O'Keefe TV show, Australia, 1961
 Biggest break in career: Own TV show in Australia, 1961
 TV debut: Australian TV, 1961
 Radio debut: Australian Radio, 1962
 Own TV series past or present: Trevor Gordon's Children's Theatre, Australia
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 Personal ambition: To be successful
 Professional ambition: To write lasting music and show how to change the scene, yeah!

appeared up the stairs after letting me in and I was left with an apologetic, "I won't be a minute; I'm just feeding the turtles!"

That, as it happened, turned out to be a statement of fact and not a local euphemism for the toilet as might have been thought. And before I left I was treated to a tour of the Stanshall mini-aquarium which consists of a tank of turtles, one ferocious catfish that looks like a baby shark, two other tanks of assorted fish and an old bath on the bedroom balcony in which he breeds snails to feed to the turtles.

Viv is in fact becoming a bit of a dab hand at turtle-ology; a scientific field in which it seems there is very little known at present. The difficulty with conveying what Mr Stanshall says on paper is, I should imagine, similar to the difficulties in conveying the brilliance of the "live" Bonzos onto "dead" plastic.

The nuances in the delicately chosen words, the subtle undertones of sarcasm that even in and out, do not survive the transition from spoken to printed word.

We talked about "Urban Space-man", but first Viv put Traffic's "Mr Fantasy" album on the player to send his son to sleep. He has discovered that pop has a remarkably soothing effect on four-month-old Rupert and that Traffic does an efficient job. It did too, and a further peep was heard.

"Space-man" was recorded some



BONZO DOGS during their spot on Tiny Tim's charity concert at the Albert Hall recently (1 to 4) RODNEY SLATER, LARRY "LEGS" SMITH, NEIL INNES, ROGER RUSKIN SPEAR and boxed Neil with group leader VIVIAN STANSBALL.

time ago. "I have the actual dates and times here for you News-hawks," said Viv, consulting his diary. "It was recorded in March and shown on TV in April."

Did they set out to make a commercial single? "That one just happened. When Neil wrote it I didn't particularly see much in it. We got the demos down when we were staying in a cottage in Devon — this sounds nice and Trafficy."

Not satirical

"We played it a hell of a lot and I got to quite like it. It's a nice happy song, I can see that it looks like a fortune and commercial. Does it? I know it's not satirical or highly pointed."

The path that has taken the lovable Bonzos into the hearts of all who've seen them — see them once and you're a lifelong fan — began at the Royal College of Art where a few of the students played to

together in the evenings with a very loose line-up. Originally, it was an act of aggression. We just sort of made the loudest discordant noise we could and held it for as long as possible.

Just to upset people and insult them. "It started off as a jazz con really because we used to get these bearded people in pullovers and they'd say, 'Great man; really unbelievable that diminished ninth you got.' But then we respected the masses and the current things started emerging. We were playing at an incredibly small club in London for guards officers and their frumps when we had this offer for a trial run at a club in Sunderland, doubling Newcastle," said Viv.

"We went up in our Easter holidays and did it and just went on and made an awful row and these people applauded. They all said, 'Great lads. We must have you back at club.' And there it was. They gave us a six-week booking when we left school.

And we already had this guy who was going to take us into stars, and everything, and he said: 'You could make a fortune, 'ere lads. You'll be as big as Frankie Vaughan!' Viv chuckled quietly to himself.

"I keep feeling that people are going to realise it's an immense con; we just go on there and muck about and make a big row. We just do what we are; it's just like going on and conversing really." "We are trying to extend entertainment in the way that we used to look at things — what happened was that we had this kind of art college humour and we found it was communicable to a certain extent. So that's what we are doing. We are being iconoclastic about

things. Saying, 'Look at this. This is ridiculous.' The Band now numbers six: Dennis Cowan being the latest bass man to join. Viv writes the lyrics and sketches; Neil Innes is the musical man; Roger Spear makes the electrical props; Larry "Legs" Smith looks after graphics and Rodney Slater just plays "thousands" of instruments.

"Like another contemporary character, the Bonzos went through a "Blue Period" in their early life when they played Hackney's Deurgon pub and became the talk of the East End. It was just a case of lack of vocabulary," laughed Viv. "We were very embryonic at the time and being 'blue' is a very easy way of getting laughs. And it was the kind of atmosphere that did spawn 'bluesness'.

'I'm vulgar'

"Anyway, I like 'bluesness'. I'm as vulgar as they come. I love it." I cannot believe it could happen, but let us hope that the pop machine does not get its deadly paws on the Bonzos we have known and loved. Are we to see them assuming the mantle of pop idols now they have a hit? "Does it really constitute a hit?" asked Viv with a tone of incredulity. "No. No. Not without extensive surgery. We're not going to start presenting ourselves as rather glossy people. We're not those kind of people — though I don't suppose any of them are when they start."

"But if anything or anyone does start getting slick and nasty then we turf it out — otherwise it's death." Long live the Bonzos!



GERRY MARSDEN: "playing to crowded theatres."

From YOU to US

Edited by TONY BROMLEY

comment on how I admire Cynthia Lennon. I have always been a devotee of John and I've had mixed feelings about the divorce. But Cyn has really shown what a wonderful woman she is! She's been very calm throughout, she hasn't said one word against John or Yoko and she has praised the Beatles. I think she must be very fond of John and has been very brave. I wish even more to Cynthia and Yoko to get on well and to play it. Let's hope that Dorothy had the good sense to write her Elvica back in the chart where he very rightly deserves to be.

OPEN LETTER TO MICKIE MOST

Dear Mickie, Well, Mickie mate, you may be the Most when it comes to producing hit records. I'm sure folk like Lulu and Herman would say so and I'd be first to agree with them. But if you mean what you say in last week's NME I reckon you're the least — in fact you're the most — so far as knowing what's happening all around you is concerned. What happened to GERRY AND THE PACEMAKERS? You mean you REALLY don't know? So if you're sitting mostly then I'll be in a bit of a muddle. More than 18 months ago Gerry and the Pacemakers decided they'd done just about everything they could do together as a beat group. We'd started out as part of what all the papers called the Mersey Beat Boom, had more than a fair share of No. 1 hits (our first three singles in a row), toured all over Canada and America to Australia and Sweden, made our own feature film "Charlie Girl and the Mersey" (and most important of all from my point of view) gained a lot of TV Times, Friday pictures. He feels the men running for public office are quite capable of speaking for themselves and he also respects the ability of such individual to be able to make up his own mind as to his personal preferences.

From GERRY MARSDEN

So in 1967 The Pacemakers quit the business. They're alive and well and living in Formby, Lancs! From there I started off at Square One, as they say, with Gerry minus Pacemakers. Gerry Marsden going solo. Things kicked off well because I was chosen to lead the British team in the 1967 European Song Cup contest at Knokke-le-Zoute, Belgium. Thanks to the solid work of a great little team which included Roger Whittaker and Don West we brought the cup home to Britain. Then came the break that pointed me in the direction I'd always wanted to travel — towards a winning musical in the West End. I was invited to take over one of the starring roles in "Charlie Girl at London's Adelphi Theatre playing opposite Anna Neagle and Derek Nimmo.



The FOUNDATIONS, going clockwise, from 6 o'clock, new singer COLIN YOUNG, PAT BURKE, ERIC ALLENDALE, ALAN WARNER, PETER MACBETH and GORDON, a friend and TIM HARRIS.

BUTTERCUP REINFORCES Foundations

THOSE NME readers who have ever auditioned for a part in a play, film or group will know what fierce competition can present itself on the day. Consider, then, the case of Foundations' singer Colin Young who turned up to find TWO HUNDRED applicants for the job.

"I thought I had no chance when I found out how many singers were after the job," Colin frankly admitted to me. "It's great to have been picked." Colin and the group's trombonist, Eric Allendale, came round to the NME office in the Strand and were immediately confronted by an entire German TV crew complete with floodlights, mikes, cameras and miles of cable. They seem unperturbed, however. On the instructions of the man in charge ("you sit on ze desk and speak ven I say please"), Colin plunked himself down, sent my tea flying across the table and smiled.

Interviewing someone you have never met before under conditions which Dante must have had in mind when he wrote his "Inferno" is not easy. But, resolutely, the two brave men battled on and... "The Foundations were going back down the ladder when I joined, but this record has put us back up again," Colin said.

Cut four weeks ago

Colin pointed out that the number was recorded four weeks ago, just a couple of weeks after he joined the group. It was written by Tony Macaulay and Mike D'Abo whereas, before, most of the Foundations' songs were penned by Macaulay and John Macleod.

Despite its similarity to their previous hits, "Build Me Up Buttercup" leapt high into the NME Chart last week and has improved considerably this week, looking set for a final high placing. "I used to sing with Joe Young and the Tonics but there was a split," Colin explained. "I had never seen the Foundations, just heard their records and I wanted to join because it would help me to get on." While hot lights beamed down on our heads and the noise level subsided temporarily, Colin went on: "The material the Foundations do is more progressive. They used to do other people's stuff, but we're writing ourselves now. I find I'm having to work a lot harder. We're moving away from soul because all the ordinary groups do it and we want to bring ourselves out of the songwriting scene. Eric has been active for a long time. He even has one of his compositions

Beach Boys' magic

THE Beach Boys first appearance at the London Palladium last Sunday on the first night of their British tour proved once again that they have that little magic which distinguishes the great from the good in pop music. You can still say "Beatles-Stones-Beach Boys" in the same breath without fear of contradiction! They gave a highly appreciative audience eleven all-time favourites.

It is perhaps just a little sad that the best received songs were those hits of yesterday — "God Only Knows" and "Good Vibrations" for Brian Wilson seldom seems to have dipped his pen in the consuming fire which produced these two classics since. However, having heard "Twenty By Twenty" which is their New Year album I can reveal that B.W. is on the move again. The group appeared in snow white suits and their usual friendly stage manner emerged. Mike Love smiled through his beard and said "Hi to all those in the cheap seats" while Carl was beautifully benign and Dennis, dashing on the drums, Al Jardine was chirpy and Bruce looked more like a Beach Boy than anyone else. Their sounds were sun and surf and full of California fun. Barry Ryan topped the first half and appeared full of restraint promise in a blue shirt, black trousers and metal belt. He sang "Look Of Love" with better range and interpretation than a hundred Englishers. Sharon Tandy and the Fleur de Lys got the show off to a good start. With fellow Scousers Derek and I do not like what they do it. I admire the way they do it. Bruce Channell was in a word — sick. I neither like what he does or the way that he does it. But I like the Election were in a word — good — KEITH ALTHAM

HUGO HANGS 'EM HIGH IN THE CHARTS!

Hard on the heels of his chart-topping triumph with "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" (RCA1727) HUGO MONTENEGRO has another smash single from the "Fistful of Dollars" film series! It's "HANG 'EM HIGH" c/w "Tomorrow's Love" (RCA1771). The film's been packing the cinemas for weeks, and if the number of people coming out humming the theme music is any guide — this is another No. 1 of the future!



HARMONY GRASS is the name of a new group making their RCA debut this week, with "MOVE IN A LITTLE CLOSER BABY" c/w "Happiness is Toy Shaped" (RCA1772). Although the group as a whole is new, all the boys have been in other groups before. You might well recognise the leader of the group when you hear the disc. Sorry, no prizes for guessing!

"LIGHT MY FIRE" c/w "Mrs. Robinson"

What a fabulous double on one disc! Especially when they're both given the unique solo guitar treatment of CHET ATKINS. The arrangements Chet features here, are the same as those which backed both numbers on the original chart-topping versions. Great listening!

A highly seasonal double 'single' from Scotland's premier comedian, JIMMY LOGAN.

The titles are "NEW YEAR BELLS" and "THE HOUSE OF AIRLIE" (RCA1774). Two great party tracks for the festive season, with Jimmy in fine voice as usual. If any further evidence of Jimmy's vocal talents is needed, you couldn't do better than listen to his beautiful LP—"I HAVE DREAMED" (S)SF7970 (MRD)7970. This album has a dozen songs which will last forever. It will make a splendid Christmas gift for thousands of Mums this year!

Another album which is selling faster every week is "MR. ROBERTS"

(RD7940). The "Mr. Roberts" is, of course, MALCOLM ROBERTS. With his good looks, great voice and highly polished style, Malcolm has already won an army of fans. If you haven't heard this LP yet, you're missing out on a lot of sound.

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TOP SINGLES REVIEWED BY DEREK JOHNSON

INCREDIBLE DONOVAN

* Atlantis (Pye). WHAT an incredible young man is Donovan—so versatile, so complete in his assessment of the contemporary scene...

* TIPPED FOR CHARTS CHART POSSIBLE

Real cracker from Stevie

STEVIE WONDER: (For Once In My Life (Tamla Motown) I HAVE a slight bias against this disc from the outset...

with an irresistible toe-tapping beat and a bustling all-happening scoring. And Stevie Wonder's vehement punch-packing vocal is both exciting and dynamic.

GRIPPING GRAPEFRUIT

GRAPEFRUIT: (Someday Soon (Stateside-Dunhill). WRITTEN by the group's talented bass player, George Alexander, this is an impressive performance by Grapefruit...

SANDPIPERS: Let Got (A & M). I can't see this disc appealing to the mass market—in fact, it sounds more like an LP track...

Cliff Bennett has already had one hit with a Beatle LP track, and now he tries to repeat the formula with the driving "Back in the USSR" (Parlophone)...

A delicate and technically expert guitar duet, supported by throbbing tom-toms and electric bass with distant slide-guitar and crashing cymbals giving the effect of a soaring albatross. Excellent—but hardly Chart material.



GRAPEFRUIT (l to r) JOHN PERRY, GEOFF SWETTENHAM, GEORGE ALEXANDER and PETE SWETTENHAM.

Jose turns rocker into suave swinger

JOSE FELICIANO: * Hi Heel Sneakers (RCA). TOMMY TUCKER'S original version of this 12-bar up-beat blues (available again on Chess) was a blatant rocker...

Decidedly jazz-influenced with a sparkling rhythm that combines both Latin-American and Afro-Cuban influences, it features Jose at his superb best...

ELVIS BACK TO PELVIS DAYS

ELVIS PRESLEY: A Little Less Conversation (RCA). QHO, say the critics, Presley's last release "You'll Never Walk Alone" hopped badly...

Perhaps the greatest soul duettists in the world with an impassioned mid-tempo ballad—plus a typical Atlantic backing of bluing brass, sweeping strings and tambourine emphasising the beat.

A superb example of soulful interchange at its best. This is an inspired performance by Sam and Dave, for which I have nothing but the greatest praise.

MARVIN GAYE: Chained (Tamla Motown). A characteristic of the Tamla sound has always been its heavily accented beat, and on this number it's heavier than ever.

On top of this, there's the usual enveloping Motown orchestral backing, rattling tambourine and chanting girls.

All of which makes it sound like a bit of a hotch-potch. But it isn't—the overall effect is dynamic and tingling, and jam-packed with that genuine coloured feel.

SAM & DAVE: Everybody Got to Believe in Somebody (Atlantic).

PAUL JONES: Aquarius (Columbia). This is the spectacular opening number from the show "Hair"...

Thunders along with a heavy plod beat, chirping girls, blasting brass and rattling tambourine, while Arthur Conley, in uninhibited style...

TWO RESTLESS BEE GEES TALK ABOUT THEIR FUTURE PLANS AND DREAMS

I want more respect - BARRY

LOOKING out of the penthouse window I was confronted by a grey mass of bustling businessmen in their prestige open-plan office block.



BARRY speaks to JAN NESBIT

I think it's also very funny, it's about the Boer War and how we all got roped in as soldiers. There are going to be six songs although we won't be singing them as a group...

Wrong spelling

I asked whether he thought the proposed title "Masterpiece" was pretentious. "Ha, that is what everyone thought! Who do those Bee Gees think they are?" he mimicked.

Barry Gibb's disenchantment with the pop scene has been accentuated by what he feels to be the rough treatment handed out to him by the Marbles.

Barry Gibb, as we all know, wants to be a film star. His first, and postponed film "Lord Kitchener's Little Drummer Boys" is to be made with the rest of the group.



BEE GEES on target in the "Averti Special" TV show they recorded in Germany, the final show they did before Vince left the group.

To anyone who look the trouble to look beyond the omnipresent talent of the Gibb Brothers and took time to consult the dark-haired lead guitarist with the open smile and the friendly disposition, it would have been obvious that being a Bee Gee was not going to provide Vince Melouney with the degree of satisfaction the inner musical man demanded of him.

Vince's ideas were never those of the Bee Gees, though he admires them and is grateful for the influences they have had on him.

VINCE speaks to NICK LOGAN

They are doing I realised that my ideas aren't augment their ideas.

"I learned one thing in Australia," he went on to say, "and that was that if I was in a group that didn't appear to be progressing I always left it even if they were earning big money."

"Because I would feel I was letting myself down as a musician."

And that to him is sufficient reason to turn his back on a future as secure as any in this business can be.

His new colleagues in the group he plans to join are Tony Ashton, piano, organ and vibes, Kim Gardner, bass, and Roy Dyke on drums.

The three are experienced and respected musicians and have been working together under the name Ashton, Gardner and Dyke for just a few months.

Vince met them through Tony, heard them working together, paid for them to make some demos, got excited, wanted to produce their records and then decided he would like to join them on lead guitar.

Progress before money - VINCE



and an only child. Roy's father was a musician in a dance band and still plays round the Pool. It was through his father's records and going with him to clubs that Roy first became interested in music...

He turned professional and joined the Remo, long before Tony did, and went off with the group to play USAF bases in France. While they were away the Liverpool boom was happening and when they came back most of their contemporaries were already in the Chart.

"We had completely missed out," says Roy with no trace of bitterness, "and we were one of the top groups in Liverpool at the time."

The Remo went on to back various artists—Gene Pitney, Tommy Roe, Tommy Quickly and Billy J. Kramer among them—and towards the end Tony and Roy were able to indulge in some jazz work, but finally quit because the scope was too narrow.

Bass man Kim Gardner, at 20, is the youngster of the group, dark-haired, quiet and good-looking. He had a different background from the other two and is a Londoner born south of the Thames in Dulwich.

With Birds

Kim started his professional career with the Birds, staying with them for four years as they moved through the R & B scene to Tamla Motown. He quit to join Creation, who had a minor hit with "Fainter Man" here.

It had been bugging me for the past two years that I wanted to play more of a jazz thing," says Kim, "but I just couldn't leave and have no bread."

He heard of Tony and Roy leaving Remo, went to see Tony and both were knocked out by each other's ideas. There and then Kim decided to quit.

Initially they were dubious about Vince going in with them, seeing little in common between them and the Bee Gees. They were, however, to discover that Vince's ideas were not those of the Bee Gees and were in fact close to their own.

So, like a latter-day Gulliver pinned down by musical ideas at odds with his own and with no professional release for the frustrations that have been mounting inside him, the musical time bomb that has been Vince Melouney is about to explode!

Advertisement for Antonio Kirby. Text: 'The New Sensational Continental Hit! COME BACK HERE WITH MY HEART WITH MY HEART (Con Due Occhi Così) C/W ANTONIO Recorded by KATHY KIRBY on COLUMBIA DB 8521 Released DECEMBER 13th'

Advertisement for André Philippe. Text: 'André Philippe A CHRISTMAS DOUBLE - A "WINNER" Something NEW! Bubble Bath CRUET SET Here's a cute little gift idea. A cruet set filled with sweet fragrant bubble bath. Six to eight luxurious bathtimes later, the chrome plated cruet set a new life as neat salt and pepper shakers. In enticing pack. For your friends—or yourself. 7/11d. There are many other gifts by André Philippe—Ask your local Chemist or Department Store. André Philippe'

Advertisement for Island Records. Text: 'SET THE SCENE WITH "SIR" HEADGEAR "SIR" HEADGEAR WIP 6048 Have you seen the latest fur Midl Capt? Black or brown. Soft and floppy felt hat with wide artist brim. Sizes, medium and large. Colours grey or black. Price 30/-, plus 2/6 p. & p. "SIR" HEADGEAR 10 DRYDEN CHAMBERS 119 OXFORD STREET, LONDON W.1 Code: W1R1PA Island ISLAND RECORDS LIMITED 155-157 OXFORD STREET LONDON W1 ENGLAND'

TOM JONES, JOHN MAYALL, SHORTY LONG LPs reviewed by ALLEN EVANS

*** TOM JONES: HELP YOURSELF (SML 496)
Tom Jones sings a nicely balanced mixture of ballads and faster numbers in his now even more polished style.

*** JOHN MAYALL: BLUES FROM LAUREL CANYON (Decca, SML 4972)
Jones has proved a busy year for the multi-talented John Mayall. The Bare Wires LP became a hit.

*** JOE TEX: YOU BETTER GET IT (Atlantic 88830)
Another of Atlantic's soul stars, Joe Tex is not only an accomplished singer but also a prolific songwriter.

*** ARTHUR CONLEY: SOUL DIRECTION (Atlantic 588128)
Ten tracks all good - soul stirring stuff with Arthur Conley claiming the writing credits on five of them.

stirring stuff with Arthur Conley claiming the writing credits on five of them. I liked the medium paced 'You Really Know How To Hear Say'.

There is a swinging singer who belts out his lyrics and packs plenty of rhythm into his songs.

It seems natural that this popular man-and-wife singing team should sing their own compositions.

Very good value on the cheaper priced label as you can see by the list below.

Elusive Butterfly and What Would I Be - early recordings in his career. But both LPs very good listening, as all Val's singing is.

There has been a glut of LP's featuring several stars on the one album.

It's a set of up-tempo beat numbers by various artists on the United Artists label, both American and British.

Very good value on the cheaper priced label as you can see by the list below.

Comes Shinin' Thru' - Long Johns: Bldry; and Days - Kinks.
*** RHYTHM AND BLUES CLASSICS: Volume 1 (Mint, MLS 40085).

THE ALBUM sleeve claims that on this disc are many of the original versions of rock songs that became world famous in the mid-60s.

There's a gentle rendition of Roger Miller's 'Little Green Apples' - a mid-tempo joggling to 'Teresa' which was at one time in line as his next single.

It's a kind of 'yunky-tunky-tunk' tune. Tom Jones has covered two of the songs on his album - 'My Girl Maria' and 'So Afraid'.

RAYMOND LEFEVRE ORCHESTRA (Major Minor, MMLP 36) play with great charm and majesty 12 Yule tunes in their 'Top Christmas' LP.

LEAPY LEE informs me that his first album, LITTLE ARROWS (MCA, MURS 354) is one "which bridges the gap between country and western and pop."

THE SONGS are a collection of a gentle rendition of Roger Miller's 'Little Green Apples' - a mid-tempo joggling to 'Teresa'.

Meanwhile, back at the LP for your continued enjoyment there is

A CHRISTMAS DEDICATION (Chess, CHS 454) offers some stirring gospel singing from Chess artists Ernest Franklin, Satem Travelers, the Soul Strivers, the Violinaires, the Meditation Singers and Martha Bass.

RETURN OF LORR ROCKINGHAM (Columbia, SCX 6291) brings back Harry Robinson - Jack Good hit group of 1958 with a really rocking beat.

THE BARRIER UH' (Mercury BF1731)
a strong theme in today's style

ONE DAY IN EVERY WEEK (Mercury MF1070)
A Beautiful New Single

Go for these! Philips Group Hot New Singles

a dedication to John Lennon - in inimitable Dearie style
BLOSSOM DEARIE HEY JOHN TF986

Bright and catchy, already in the American charts
PAUL MAURIAT and his orchestra CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG BF1733

a Howard Blaikley number for this new group
THE BARRIER UH' BF1731

a strong theme in today's style
PROCESSION ONE DAY IN EVERY WEEK MF1070

A Beautiful New Single
RAYMOND LEFEVRE ADAGIO CARDINAL Those Were The Days MM590

Have You Missed These Hits
MALCOLM ROBERTS May I Have The Next Dream With You MM581

JOHNNY NASH You Got Soul MM586

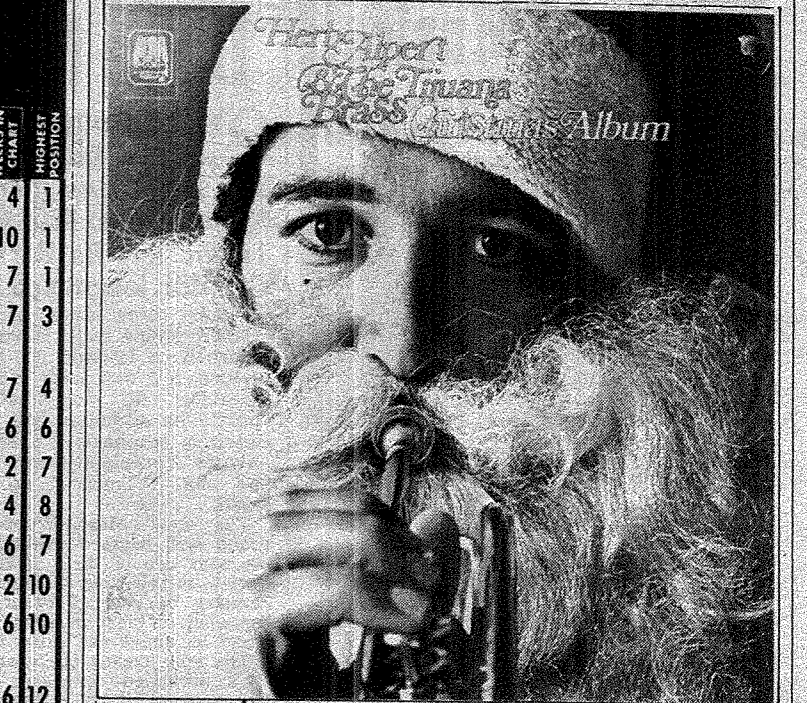
THE POP TOPS Oh Lord, Why Lord MM587

MAJOR MINOR RECORDS 58/59 Gt. Marlborough Street London W1

NME TOP 30

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Song/Artist, Label. Includes entries like Lily the Pink, The Good, The Bad and the Ugly, Eloise, This Old Heart of Mine, etc.

New Releases From A&M



Herb Alpert and The Tijuana Brass Christmas Album AML 923 (M) AMLS 923 (S)



Claudine Longet Sleep Safe And Warm AMS 740



Evie Sands Shadow Of The Evening AMS 736

Sea Train Let The Duchess No AMS 737

Britain's Top 15 LPs

Table with 3 columns: Rank, LP Title/Artist, Label. Includes entries like The Beatles, The Best of the Seekers, Hollies Greatest Hits, etc.

5 YEARS AGO 10 YEARS AGO 15 YEARS AGO

Three columns of lists showing top ten records from 5, 10, and 15 years ago. Includes entries like I Want To Hold Your Hand, She Loves You, etc.

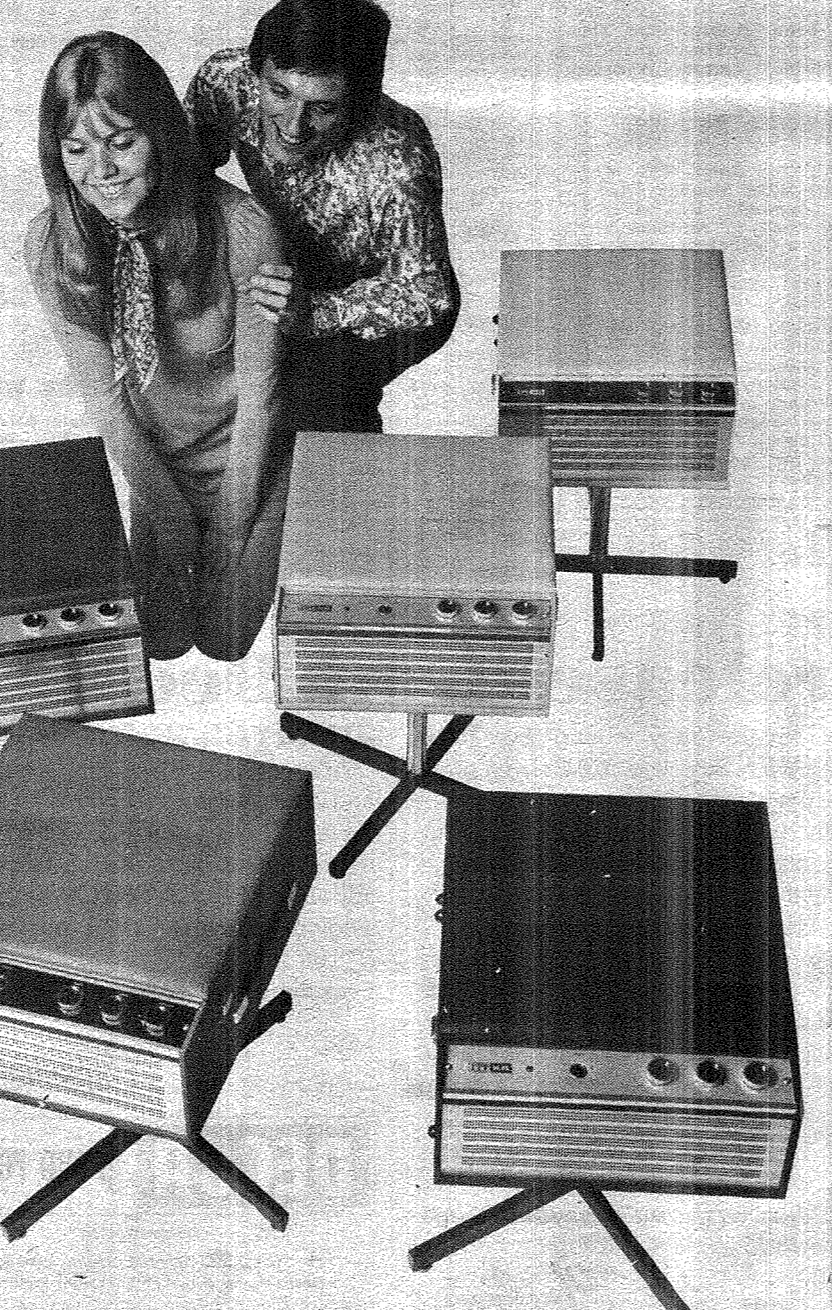
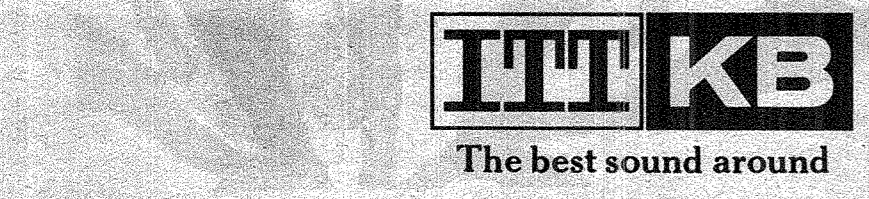
BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Record Title/Artist, Label. Includes entries like I Love Child, Diana Ross and Supremes, etc.

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distortion, whatever the volume setting). Like separate bass and treble controls. Like a fully transistorised amplifier, with a tape-recorder playback extension. Like a top quality BSR playing deck. The price? A modest 24 gns. (Stand, 31 gns.).
Pop in to your local ITT KB dealer, and give Colorsounds the once-over. (You may even see another ITT KB player you fancy; we make a whole range - all with great styling, super sound and attractive price-tickets).

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TRAFFIC SPLIT; STEVIE TO SOLO

Dave Mason returns to join Wood-Capaldi group

ONLY 20 months after its formation, Traffic has split up! Stevie Winwood intends to pursue a solo career, but may form a backing group to accompany him on recordings and personal appearances. The other two members, Chris Wood and Jim Capaldi, are to form a new group with ex-member Dave Mason—who has flown back from Los Angeles to join them. The split took place last weekend, when Traffic left its Berkshire country cottage and headed in different directions. Winwood flew to Holland, Capaldi journeyed to London and Wood travelled to the North of England.

...AND BURDON QUILTS POP

ERIC BURDON is to quit the pop business to embark on a Hollywood film career. In a Transatlantic phone call to the NME this week he revealed that he is disbanding the Animals and that his final public appearance as a singer will be on December 22 at Newcastle City Hall, at the previously-reported reunion performance of the original Animals.

Burdon is now likely to live extensively in California, and immediately after Christmas he will begin work there on a feature film for 20th Century-Fox—a Western titled "Jim Crow". He has purchased a house in Laurel Canyon, a suburb of Los Angeles. It is understood that Burdon is now separated from his wife Angie, whom he married last year.

Eric and the Animals returned to America last week following the abrupt termination of their Japanese tour. Commented Burdon: "Our manager was threatened at knife-point by a bunch of thugs, who wanted us to play extra dates for no additional payment. So we promptly packed our bags and left."

Ringo Starr is now scheduled to begin work on his second solo film in February and he will be involved in a promotional tour in London, as revealed in the NME on October 19, the movie is "The Long Walk Home", in which Ringo is cast as Peter Selzer's adopted son.

Polydor Records announce this week that they will not, after all, be distributing the controversial "John Lennon - Yoko Ono LP - Two Virgins".

The Bono Dog's "Urban Space-man"—which was produced by Paul McCartney—will be released in America to coincide with the polo-manned flight round the moon.

ELVIS RADIO CONTROVERSY

ELVIS PRESLEY is being "deliberately ignored" by the BBC and by the promotion department of his own recording company. These are the charges made in this month's issue of the official Presley Fan Club magazine. The allegations refer to Elvis' last single "You're Never Walk Alone" which failed to reach chart status. It is reported that this disc was played only on Radio 1—by Tony Blackburn in his review spot, and by Jimmy Savile in "Savile's Travels". It is further claimed that the track has not been played at all on Radio 2, although the "B" side had one airing on this wavelength.

Furthermore, it is alleged that RCA-Victor did not feature the Presley disc in any of its advertising time on Radio Luxembourg. And this total lack of interest on the part of the BBC and RCA is, says the magazine, the principal reason why the record did not become a hit.

Comments Derek Johnson: "From my investigations it would seem these claims are substantially correct. With such a false following, it is an injustice to cold-shoulder the World's Top Male Singer in this manner. Nevertheless, it is apparent that not all the 75,000 members of the Presley Fan Club purchased the disc, otherwise its Chart entry would have been assured. I understand that Elvis' new single 'A Little Less Conversation' [out this week] is being included in RCA's advertising time on...

ISLEYS SHOCK

THE Isley Brothers' projected British tour this month has been cancelled at the last moment. The Tamala group was due to open at Warrington Co-op Hall tonight (Friday), and an extensive string of one-nighters — fully reported in last week's NME — had been lined up by promoter Maurice King. But the Isleys pulled out of their visit at the last moment, because they felt they were not ready for an "Explained Kings" — their current hit was recorded nearly three years ago — and, in fact, the Isleys have not worked together for the last 18 months. Tamala has now reunited the team, but the boys feel they need more time to rehearse before undertaking personal appearances. They will now be coming here at the end of January or early February.

VAL'S SUMMER

Val Donatian will be the star attraction in next year's lengthy summer season presentation at Blackpool Opera House. Also booked for the production are Moira Anderson and the Trio Athenae.

MAURIES IN THE WHOLE

Marbles spend the whole of next week recording their follow-up to "Only One Woman", and their first LP, "The Wholesome Woman", is expected to be released in late January. The single will be another Bee Gees number, produced by Barry Gibb.

★ POPLINERS ★

ANITA HARRIS refused to perform at Middleborough Showboat last Sunday (1) because she had not received equal billing with Paul Jones — with whom she claims, she was due to co-star. ● Appearing at London Marquee Club on December 7, Joe Jackson (19), Jethro Tull (20), Aynsley Dunbar (24) and Ten Years After (Boxing Day). ● Manager Roy Flynn is planning to return to London's Speakeasy Club in Margaret Street — badly damaged by fire earlier this year — on December 15. ● Four Plus Two resident at London Hatched's Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve. ● Status Quo open with the Small Faces in 12-day tour from January 10. ● Tyrannosaurus Rex and John Peel in Nems Enterprises promotion at London LP. ● Both are due in late January. ● Bee King's five-week British tour opens at Tottenham Royal on February 21, and includes cabaret week at Middleborough Showboat from March 23.

LATEST ON RADIO XMAS GOODIES FOR HOLIDAY LISTENING

HIGHLIGHTS of Radio 1's special Christmas programmes were revealed this week. Main details are as follows:

CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY

Tony Blackburn's breakfast show starts later than usual, and runs from 8 to 10 a.m. This is followed by Jimmy Young in his normal mid-morning spot; a two-hour "Round-The-World Family Favourites with Michael Aspel"; the "Engelbert Humperdinck Show" with the Casuals and the Move; Tony Brandon hosting a 2½-hour pop party, with the Tremeloes and Joe Cocker and the Grease Band; the Val Donatian show featuring many big-name pop guests; and Cliff Richard introducing an hour of LP tracks. There will also be a party edition of "Late Night Christmas" when Ray Moore takes "Christmas - Nightride" through from midnight until 5.30 a.m.

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BANDWAGON

The Dave Dee group, Herman's Hermits, the Tremeloes, the Show Stoppers, Vanity Fare and Cupid's Inspiration head the impressive line-up assembled for Radio 1's "David Symonds Show" every day from Friday, December 16, to Friday, December 26, they are joined by Happy Manes, the Lemon Tree, the Family, the Onyx and the Bunch.

THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS

the Merseys and the bands of Alex Welsh and Lightfoot. Set for the "Jimmy Young Show" during the December 15 edition are the Tremeloes, the Moody Blues, Cliff Bennett and his Band, the Searchers, Lois Lane and Kenny Dally's Jazzmen.

EPISODE SIX JOINS SATURDAY PEOPLE

Tommy Vance and the Swinging Blue Jeans, the Merseys and the bands of Alex Welsh and Lightfoot. Set for the "Jimmy Young Show" during the December 15 edition are the Tremeloes, the Moody Blues, Cliff Bennett and his Band, the Searchers, Lois Lane and Kenny Dally's Jazzmen.

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BEATLES HOLD-UP, RINGO LOVE

THE Beatles have shelved their live concert plans until after Christmas—and probably until mid-January, according to an Apple spokesman—because of unexpected difficulties over the booking at London's Roundhouse. The group has also changed its mind over giving a public-playing performance in aid of charity. Paul McCartney told NME: "It will definitely be free and we may now do the show in a television studio."

CLAY-BELL DUE HERE

JUDY CLAY and William Bell — whose "Private Number" jumps to No. 18 in this week's NME Chart — are to pay a three-week visit to Britain early in the New Year. Mason Williams, of "Classical Gas" fame, arrived in London this week on a short promotional trip and will return in January for club appearances.

The Clay-Bell team arrives in London on January 22, and will be in this country until February 14. It is primarily a promotional visit, with Ringo Starr and Jerry Beers also on the bill. The tour continues at Manchester Odeon (22), Newcastle Odeon (23), Glasgow Odeon (27), Liverpool Empire (28) and Walthamstow Granada (March 1). Continental dates are also being set.

NEW HUGO, MASON; BEATLES 'SUB' LP

HUGO MONTENEGRO has a new single rush-released today (Friday) even though his current single is still at No. 2 in the NME Chart. Also scheduled are new discs by Mason Williams, Kathy Kirby and the Royal Guardsmen. Bandwagon's debut LP is being rush-released this month, and a new single is also planned. It is now confirmed that the soundtrack LP of the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine" cartoon is being issued by Apple immediately.

Ex-Hollie, Ex-Byrd, Ex-Buffalo team up

IN a startling NME interview this week Graham Nash of the Hollies revealed plans for him to team up with two other internationally famous group "rebels" — ex-Byrd Dave Crosby and ex-Buffalo Springfield Stephen Stills.

The songwriting-singer trio hopes to sort out contractual problems shortly, and then possibly record in Los Angeles in January and February. It would make its first public appearance immediately after.

Nash told NME: "We don't want to be regarded as another 'group' — we are all individuals. This is what we have been trying to break away from. We won't even have a collective name."

Graham Nash, Dave Crosby and Stephen Stills will be back tonight working out material. Former Lovin' Spoonful John Sebastian has also been involved, but—although he may play with the trio from time to time—he will mainly concentrate on other commitments.

Nash makes his last appearance with the Hollies at the London Palladium "Save Rave" concert this Sunday. His replacement has yet to be set, although no less than 70 musicians have applied for the vacancy.

info on this week's new releases from Decca

Another huge week! First of all from ADAM & EVE some amazing jangle noises going on in their single "Bwana". A pulsating rhythm and a very native-sounding backing make this crazy song a happening. Just watch it pulsate it's way up the charts! On Decca, number F12858. A while back there was a dance which raged across the States but never really took off here. Now that you've all grown into groovy people, not to mention ace dancers, we reckon you're ready to do "The Duck". All you need is the great record by JACKIE LEE, and you're away! On London, number HLM 10233. Close your eyes, open your mind and let THE COMPANY FRONT pour in with their beautiful song, "I'm so happy now". This must be one of the all-time great arrangements, with ecstatic vocal harmonies, nerve-tingly brass, deep brown cellos — it's all here, it's huge and utterly together. On Monument MON 1027. Beautiful bossa-nova beat on a delicious new song from GILBERT BECAUD. Titled "Love train", it moves along with tremendous style—some very good girl-voices in the back, and of course, the swoon-worthy Gilbert sounding great. On Decca F12860. CRISPIAN ST. PETERS has a new one out called "Carolina". The intro has a touch of Tamla, and the whole arrangement is very good, with some super brass. The voice is double-tracked in parts, and this song has the sound of success about it. On Decca, number F12861.



ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK, pauses in filming his "Saturday Special" TV show (to be seen on ATV on January 4) to present LEAPY LEE with a Gold Disc for over 1,000,000 sales of "Little Arrows" worldwide. Looking on is American singer FRANK JEFFRIES, who with Leapy, is on the show.

LEAPY FOR WORLD TOUR

Chart success in 18 countries

LEAPY LEE — whose "Little Arrows" has now achieved chart status in no less than 18 different countries — is to undertake a world tour early in 1969. Plans for him to visit America this month have been shelved until January, when his U.S. visit will form the start of his global tour. Leapy will now spend Christmas at home, following his current string of Northern cabaret dates. His follow-up single will be issued by MCA on Friday, January 17.

Leapy will devote the first three weeks of January to TV and radio appearances in this country, in connection with his new single which is being produced by Gordon Mills. At the end of January he flies to America for a three-week stay incorporating TV and radio dates as well as coast-to-coast personal appearances.

From America, Leapy flies direct to Australia for concerts and TV, then travels to South Africa. He is currently at No. 1 in both these countries. Towards the end of March he will begin a series of continental dates.

BOYS' PALLADIUM LP WENT AHEAD

A LAST-MINUTE decision by Britain's Musicians' Union and the American Federation of Musicians enabled the Beach Boys to go ahead with their planned recording of a live LP last weekend. The agreement was reached at 10 a.m. on Sunday — only hours before the group's opening concert at the London Palladium, where tracks for the album were due to be cut.

As revealed in last week's NME, it seemed probable that the two unions would prevent the recording from taking place. Even so, the eleventh-hour approval of the project prevented the LP from being recorded in full at the Palladium—and it will now be completed at the group's Finsbury Park Astoria concerts this Sunday (8).

MARY ON XMAS DAY; ANITA-LONNIE SERIES

MARY HOPKIN has been added to the special Christmas edition of "Opportunity Knocks," Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch are the stars of a BBC-2 colour show—and on the same channel, Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth and Joe Brown are featured in the new "G.E.2" hour.

Plans to film the first edition of Rolf Harris' new BBC-1 series aboard the liner "G.E.2" have had to be dropped—the ship was to have sailed on a charity cruise two days before Christmas, but the voyage has been cancelled due to the delay in the liner's trials. It is, however, still planned to film the January 4 "Rolf Harris Show"—in which Esther and Mat Monro guest—and this will be transmitted in mid-January.

Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth stay in the own BBC-2 special on Friday, January 10 — and two weeks later (24) in this same spot, Joe Brown presents his full cabaret act at London's "Talk Of The Town."

Paul Jones promotes his new "Aquarius" number on Yorkshire TV's "Time For Blackburn" (tonight, Friday). BBC-1's "Wednesday Out February and March" Grandstand TV's "Discotheque" (20) and London Weekend TV's "Front On Sunday" (21) will be followed by sessions for the next album and single.

MOODIES RETURN

THE Moody Blues, who return next Monday from their two-month U.S. tour, will go back to America in April for a further five or six weeks. It was announced by their agent Colin Berlin on Wednesday.

Meanwhile the group will play ballroom dates for the rest of this month, the latter half of January, and throughout February and March.

The U.S. TV spectacular "Brigadoon," which won five Emmy awards last year, is to be screened by BBC-2 in colour on Saturday, December 14 — it stars Sally Ann Howes and Robert Goulet. The same channel shows the Hollywood version of the Rodgers-Hammerstein musical "Carousel" starring Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae — on Wednesday, December 18.

Plans to film the first edition of Rolf Harris' new BBC-1 series aboard the liner "G.E.2" have had to be dropped—the ship was to have sailed on a charity cruise two days before Christmas, but the voyage has been cancelled due to the delay in the liner's trials. It is, however, still planned to film the January 4 "Rolf Harris Show"—in which Esther and Mat Monro guest—and this will be transmitted in mid-January.

Roy Castle guests in BBC-1's "Val Donatian Show" tomorrow (Saturday), and Vince Hill is set for the following week (14). So far set for Southern's "Time For Blackburn" on December 13 are Malcolm Roberts and Kiki Dee.

Long John Baldry flies to Italy during the first week of January to record an album in Italian. It will be released to coincide with the Sanremo Song Festival on January 29, in which he appears.

COCKER, AMEN, GUN, FACES IN DEC. 31 PARTY

JOE COCKER and the Grease Band, Gun, the Small Faces, John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, Amen Corner and the Filtrations are among star names already booked by promoter Arthur Howes for his New Year's Eve Pop Party, to be staged at London's Alexandra Palace. The event—which runs from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.—will be emceed by Ed Stewart, Keith Skues, Mike Raven and Johnny Walker.

Howes told the NME: "More attractions will be booked during the next fortnight, and I hope to include another one or two American names." Howes, who plans to make this an annual event, is spending over £1,000 on lighting alone for this gala occasion. Capacity of the Alexandra Palace is 6,000 and tickets will be priced at £1—a booking form will appear in next week's NME.

Latest developments on other Arthur Howes projects include a slight delay in the GENE PITNEY concert tour, now planned to start on February 7 and run for four weeks; a postponement of UNION GAPS' British visit, originally timed to begin on January 24 and not now expected to start until at least a month later. CANNED HEAT now definitely set to begin a British club tour on January 21; a promotional visit by the TURTLES in early February, to replace their December visit which was cancelled due to U.S. commitments; and LITTLE RICHARD, who is now almost certain to arrive here at the end of January.

As reported in last week's NME, the FOUR TOPS are tentatively set to begin a short British tour—including three London dates—on January 10. But as we closed for press, Howes had still not received any further word from ARETHA FRANKLIN'S management regarding her proposed February tour.

MAJOR £100,000 U.S. OFFER FOR FOUNDATIONS TO TOUR

NEGOTIATIONS are in hand for the Foundations to undertake a three-week U.S. tour — said to be worth £100,000 — starting late January or early February. The offer was received by their manager Barry Class, who is now in the process of finalising the deal. The group's new single "Bad, Me, Lu Battering" — which climbs to No 10 in this week's NME Chart — is being rush-released in America this weekend.

The Foundations fly to Holland on January 3 to spend two days rehearsing and filming their own TV show. The group is at present working on its third album, which is scheduled by EMI for release early in the New Year.

Last weekend, trombonist Eric Allendale flew with Class and a recording engineer to Hong Kong. There they recorded a Philippine group, Danny Diaz and the Checkmates, performing one of Allendale's compositions, Solomon Grundy. Class is bringing the group to Britain on January 5 for personal appearances.

New one-nighter dates for the Foundations include Haverfordwest Market Hall (tomorrow, Saturday), Coalville Grand (December 13), Redruth (Flamingo, 14), Rawtenstall (Astoria, 14), Nelson Imperial (28), Eastcote Rink (29) and Salisbury City Hall (31).

SAVOY SACHA

French singer Sacha Distel stars in a two-week cabaret season at London's Savoy Hotel from February 1. He is also in his own BBC-TV series, which would be filmed early in the New Year for spring transmission. Sacha is due to guest in ATV's "London Palladium Show" towards the end of January.

CUPID FOR TV SERIES?

Cupid's Inspiration have been offered a resident role in a new TV series based on the recently published book "Birds or Bricks?" It is being produced independently for U.S. and British screening, and production begins after Christmas. The group's first album is scheduled for early January release by Wems.

Pick this one. Kiki Dee

Now the flowers cry

Baldry waxes in Italy

Long John Baldry flies to Italy during the first week of January to record an album in Italian. It will be released to coincide with the Sanremo Song Festival on January 29, in which he appears.

JIMMY GILMER sounds pensive on 'Three squares'

which is a little bit sad and very beautiful, on London HLM 10233. Have I got room for THE MEMORIES new one, "Indian Lake" on Rex R11039, and also on Rex PATRICK O'HAGAN singing "Stronger than hate", number R11040?

Even more next week!


DECCA group records

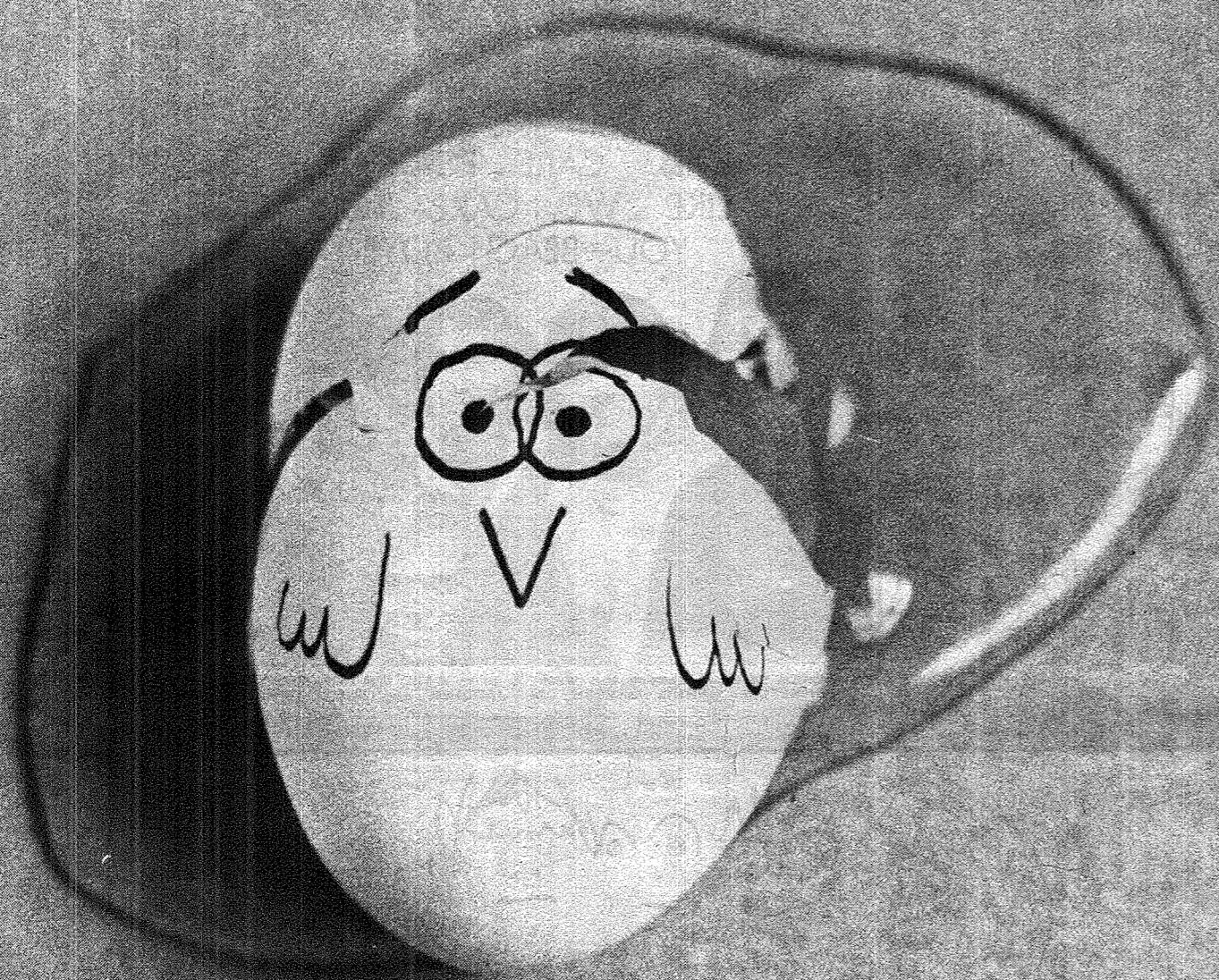
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New Musical Express

POLL SUPPLEMENT

All the 1968 results

WORLD MALE SINGER

1 ELVIS PRESLEY	4481
2 Tom Jones	4232
3 Cliff Richard	2983
4 Scott Walker	2001
5 Paul McCartney	1765
6 Bob Dylan	1423
7 Otis Redding	1264
8 Gene Pitney	1111
9 Engelbert Humperdinck	1037
10 John Lennon	729
11 Joe Cocker	691
12 Donovan	691
13 Frank Sinatra	680
14 Jose Feliciano	622
15 Mick Jagger	475
16 Roy Orbison	463
17 Gary Puckett	413
18 Andy Williams	401
19 Jimi Hendrix	388
20 O. C. Smith	350
21 Des O'Connor	281
22 Richard Harris	280
23 Marvin Gaye	222
24 Barry Ryan	211
25 Val Doonican	209

WORLD FEMALE SINGER

1 LULU	7001
2 Dusty Springfield	6004
3 Aretha Franklin	1987
4 Mary Hopkin	1763
5 Cilla Black	1502
6 Julie Driscoll	1326
7 Diana Ross	835
8 Petula Clark	620
9 Nancy Sinatra	600
10 Brenda Lee	431
11 Sandie Shaw	412
12 Dionne Warwick	376
13 Vikki Carr	348
14 Nina Simone	325
15 Mama Cass	262
16 Anita Harris	243
17 Mireille Mathieu	211
18 Shirley Bassey	178
19 Joan Baez	150
20 Jeannie C. Riley	149

WORLD VOCAL GROUP

1 BEATLES	8601
2 Beach Boys	3891
3 Rolling Stones	2482
4 Jordanares	1860
5 Bee Gees	1843
6 Jimi Hendrix Experience	1298
7 Hollies	1187
8 Gary Puckett/Union Gap	1010
9 Shadows	943
10 Tremeloes	621
11 Diana Ross / Supremes	480
12 Four Tops	324
13 Monkees	307
14 Love Affair	307
15 Cream	269
16 Mamas & Papas	251
17 Who	240
18 Everly Brothers	222
19 Small Faces	216
20 Simon & Garfunkel	212

WORLD MUSICAL PERSONALITY

1 ELVIS PRESLEY	5621
2 Jimi Hendrix	2806
3 Cliff Richard	1984
4 John Lennon	1919
5 Paul McCartney	1880
6 Tom Jones	1863
7 Scott Walker	1709
8 Bob Dylan	1007
9 Herb Alpert	629
10 Mick Jagger	624
11 Eric Clapton	490
12 Jose Feliciano	462
13 Hank Marvin	454
14 Dusty Springfield	416
15 Arthur Brown	415
16 Lulu	410
17 Otis Redding	386
18 Hugo Montenegro	372
19 Des O'Connor	334
20 Cilla Black	315
21 Val Doonican	308
22 Gene Pitney	302
23 Brian Wilson	286
24 Diana Ross	276
25 Louis Armstrong	256

BRITISH VOCAL GROUP

1 BEATLES	8601
2 Hollies	2980
3 Rolling Stones	2973
4 Bee Gees	1999
5 Shadows	1702
6 Tremeloes	1700
7 Jimi Hendrix Experience	1597
8 Cream	766
9 Love Affair	760
10 Who	518
11 Small Faces	498
12 Dave Clark Five	405
13 Amen Corner	263
14 Herd	231
15 Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich	210
16 Moody Blues	208
17 Casuals	201
18 Troggs	196
19 Move	190
20 Fleetwood Mac	189
21 Manfred Mann	189



BRITISH FEMALE SINGER

1 LULU	8010
2 Dusty Springfield	6525
3 Mary Hopkin	2709
4 Julie Driscoll	2016
5 Cilla Black	1964
6 Anita Harris	660
7 Petula Clark	658
8 Sandie Shaw	511
9 P. P. Arnold	201
10 Shirley Bassey	194

TOP DISC JOCKEY

1 JIMMY SAVILE	6594
2 Tony Blackburn	6281
3 Kenny Everett	4875
4 John Peel	4803
5 Stuart Henry	1422
6 Emperor Rosko	1210
7 Alan Freeman	1112
8 David Symonds	657
9 Tony Prince	301
10 Johnnie Walker	283



BEST TV/RADIO SHOW

1 TOP OF THE POPS	13285
2 Top Gear	2197
3 Kenny Everett's Foreverit	1634
4 Tony Blackburn Show (Radio)	981
5 Pick Of The Pops	976
6 Time For Blackburn (TV)	939
7 Dee Time	898
8 Emperor Rosko Show	876
9 Presenting Elvis Presley	850
10 Scene And Heard	352

BEST NEW GROUP

1 LOVE AFFAIR	5121
2 Casuals	4777
3 Fleetwood Mac	4777
4 Brian Auger Trinity	4002
5 Status Quo	3638
6 Equals	1864
7 Marbles	1639
8 Marmalade	1412
9 Paper Dolls	987
10 Honeybus	508
11 Cupid's Inspiration	336
12 Locomotive	270

BRITISH VOCAL PERSONALITY

1 CLIFF RICHARD	4876
2 Tom Jones	3813
3 Paul McCartney	2607
4 Lulu	2519
5 John Lennon	1938
6 Scott Walker	1935
7 Dusty Springfield	986
8 Engelbert Humperdinck	973
9 Val Doonican	842
10 Jimi Hendrix	841
11 Des O'Connor	841
12 Cilla Black	837
13 Mick Jagger	830
14 Julie Driscoll	287
15 Arthur Brown	284
16 Mary Hopkin	268
17 Ray Davies	255
18 Joe Cocker	232
19 Richard Harris	230
20 Long John Baldry	198

BRITISH MALE SINGER

1 TOM JONES	6111
2 Cliff Richard	4285
3 Scott Walker	3284
4 Paul McCartney	2563
5 Engelbert Humperdinck	2012
6 Joe Cocker	1556
7 Donovan	1234
8 John Lennon	1193
9 Mick Jagger	900
10 Jimi Hendrix	617
11 Barry Ryan	521
12 Des O'Connor	520
13 Val Doonican	386
14 Long John Baldry	380
15 Steve Marriott	373
16 Richard Harris	370
17 Peter Frampton	242
18 Georgie Fame	230
19 Arthur Brown	221
20 Steve Ellis	198
21 Jack Bruce	185
22 Andy Fairweather-Low	163
23 Stevie Winwood	150
24 Billy Fury	152
25 Malcolm Roberts	151

NEW DISC SINGER

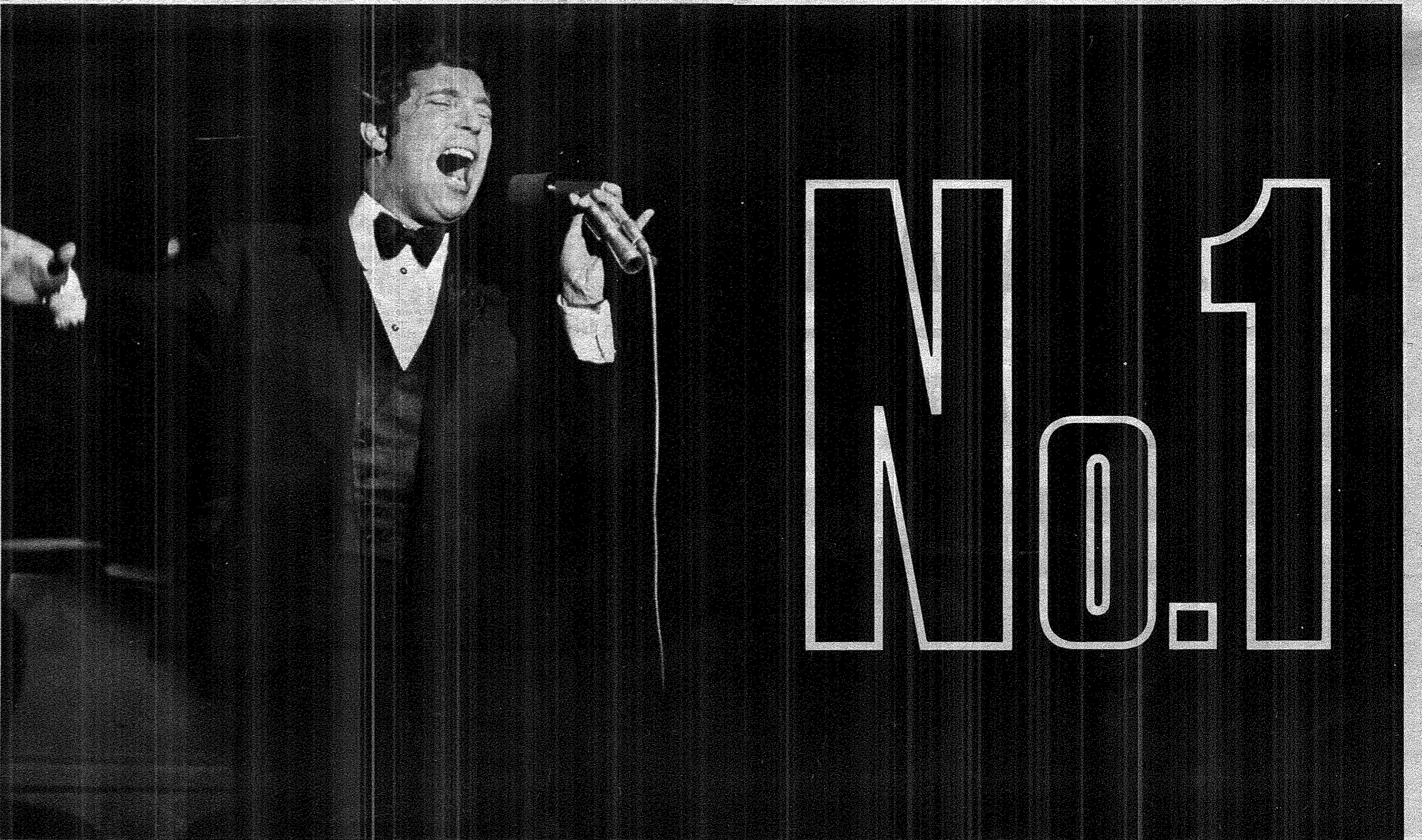
1 MARY HOPKIN	7275
2 Joe Cocker	6234
3 Barry Ryan	3008
4 Julie Driscoll	2995
5 Arthur Brown	2268
6 Des O'Connor	2027
7 Richard Harris	1213
8 John Rowles	969
9 Don Partridge	621
10 Graham Bonnet	510
11 Leapy Lee	401
12 Solomon King	333

BRIT. INSTRUMENTAL UNIT

1 SHADOWS	12684
2 Cream	3019
3 Nice	987
4 Jimi Hendrix Experience	950
5 Sounds Incorporated	965
6 Joe Loss Orchestra	885
7 Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band	763
8 Beatles	751
9 Brian Auger Trinity	619
10 Rolling Stones	544

BEST BRITISH DISC THIS YEAR

1 BEATLES "HEY JUDE"	5821
2 Mary Hopkin's "Those Were The Days"	3278
3 Rolling Stones' "Jumping Jack Flash"	2416
4 Cliff Richard's "Congratulations"	2414
5 Joe Cocker's "With A Little Help From My Friends"	2111
6 Scott Walker's "Joanna"	2008
7 Barry Ryan's "Eloise"	1623
8 Richard Harris' "MacArthur Park"	810
9 Jimi Hendrix Experience's "All Along The Watchtower"	714
10 Dusty Springfield "I Close My Eyes And Count To Ten"	672



CONGRATULATIONS

ROLLING STONES

TOM JONES

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK

THE CASUALS

JOHN MAYALL

JIMMY SAVILE

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in the NME poll

DECCA group records

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Andy Gray sums up the Poll

ELVIS FANS KEEP HIM TOP

Lulu—world title; Beatles treble! Tom, Cliff leaders

ELVIS PRESLEY fans—take a bow! You are the most loyal fans ever and if Elvis doesn't come to Britain to appear live before you there just is no justice! Elvis has been voted both World Male Singer and World Musical Personality despite the fact that he has not had a very good year discwise in this country.

Lulu scores a great double, too—World and British Female Singer. And the Beatles go one better (of course!) by gaining THREE titles—World and British Vocal Groups and Best Disc! New section toppers are Mary Hopkin and the Love Affair, while retaining No. 1 positions in various sections are Tom Jones, the Stones, Shadows, Cliff Richard, Jimmy Savile and "Top Of The Pops."

There have been many changes of fortune from last year's Poll, with new names aplenty, such as Fleetwood Mac, Joe Cocker, Des O'Connor, Jose Feliciano, Arthur Brown, Barry Ryan, Richard Harris, Cream, Casuals and Brian Auger Trinity cropping up a lot, and the biggest exit from popularity being the Monkees.

Here are some observations on how the voting went . . .

WORLD SECTION

Male Singer

IT was a tight race between Elvis and Tom Jones, only 149 votes separating them. The rest of the field well behind. Nevertheless Cliff Richard and Scott Walker retain 3rd and 4th places, which shows consistency. Paul McCartney comes up three places and Bob Dylan is up five. The late Otis Redding and fellow-American Gene Pitney still keep well up as does John Lennon, but Engelbert Humperdinck drops slightly.

Roy Orbison makes a comeback to the list at No. 16, and as always there are several newcomers. These are Joe Cocker, highest at No. 11, with Jose Feliciano three places down, then Gary Puckett, Andy Williams (by virtue of his concert and TV in London and a disc hit), O. C. Smith, Des O'Connor (who does well throughout the Poll), Richard Harris, Marvin Gaye, Barry Ryan and Val Doonican.

Female Singer

Hats off to Lulu! Last year she was second in the world and now she's champion, changing places with Dusty Springfield by almost 1,000 votes. Way below their vote totals comes Aretha Franklin to go 7 places up from last year and come third. Newcomer Mary Hopkin did very well to come fourth with only one disc (but what a disc!). Cilla Black moves up one place despite little disc success but much TV exposure and Petula Clark, Nancy Sinatra and Brenda Lee manage to stay in the Top Ten.

Two ladies who have hitherto been considered group singers emerge under their own names, Diana Ross at a high No. 7, and Mama Cass at 15. Other newcomers are Mireille Mathieu, who replaces another French star, Françoise Hardy, in the list; Joan Baez making a comeback, and Jeannie C. Riley makes No. 20.

Vocal Group

The Beatles remain World Champions by a whopping majority, with the Beach Boys a definite second. Even so the Rolling Stones go one up, although their vocals are mostly Mick Jagger. Most surprising in one way is the placing of the Jordanaires at No. 4, but this is of course the loyalty of Elvis' fans to the fore again, as this unit, which rarely records on its own, is the backing vocal support on most of El's records.

Bee Gees stay at 5th place, which is consistent, and up come Jimi Hendrix Experience, and the Hollies to Nos. 6 and 7. Another surprise is to find the Shadows in a world vocal section at 9, but no surprise is finding Gary Puckett-Union Gap at 8 and the lively Tremeloes at 10. Other newcomers to the list are the Love Affair, Cream, and Simon & Garfunkel. Only all-girl group to gain a place is Diana Ross and the Supremes at No. 11, with the fifty-fifty Mamas and Papas still around at 16. Nice to see, as well, the Everly Brothers, who used to top this section continually, still in the list at 18.

Musical Personality

It's Elvis again! And with more votes than last year. But Jimi Hendrix has proved his personality has become greater than Cliff Richard's or John Lennon's, because he jumps into No. 2 and leaves them at 3 and 4. Paul McCartney has jumped up at 5 and other big jumps in popularity are made by Dylan, now 8 from 22, and Herb Alpert, 9 from 14 last year.



CLIFF RICHARD once again tops the Vocal Personality section.



One of the reasons why TOM JONES is voted Britain's Top Male Singer and second to Elvis in the World Division — the wholehearted way he throws himself into a song

Tom Jones is 6th and Scott Walker 7th, about the same as last year. Girls manage to make their mark in this "open to all" category with Dusty highest at 14, then Lulu 16, Cilla 20, and Diana Ross 24.

Newcomers to the World list are Eric (Cream) Clapton at 11, Jose Feliciano at 12, Hugo Montenegro 18, Des O'Connor 19 and Louis Armstrong 25. That covers the World sections, now on to the . . .

BRITISH SECTION

Male Singers

TOM JONES wins a bigger majority this year than last to come top of the Male Singers division, which has still Cliff Richard as runner-up. Both have had good years and increased their popularity. Tom with his ever-more dynamic vocalising and Cliff with his varied activities in films, stage, TV and disc work.

Scott Walker gains a place to come 3rd and Paul McCartney does the same to get to 4, but Engelbert Humperdinck goes down two to be in 5th place.

Surprise, surprise — Joe Cocker has gone into 6th place as a newcomer with one hit — but with a lot of help from his fan-friends he's done very well in this Poll.

Down on Lennon and Jagger remain the same 7, 8, 9 positions as



Top deeJay JIMMY SAVILE with his two "Quiz Bingo" girls — blonde NOVA SAINT-CLAIRE and brunette CHRIS MARLOWE. The show starts on BBC-1 on January 1.

MARY is delighted and says so . . .



From the CREAM . . .

THANKS a lot for your support (singer)
Jazz Guru
Eric Clapton
Jagger Baker



From Apple

I am very honoured and so is

Apple.

Mary Hopkin

GREAT TO KNOW YOU STILL CARE FOR US LIKE WE CARE FOR YOU—BEACH BOYS



BEACH BOYS in London this week: L to r: CARL WILSON, BRUCE JOHNSTON, DENNIS WILSON, AL JARDINE and MIKE LOVE.

Many thanks to every reader who voted us once again Top of the Tops!
Johnie Stewart and everyone on the show.



HOLLIES (l. to r.) TONY HICKS, soon leaving, GRAHAM NASH, BERN CALVERT, BOBBY ELLIOTT and ALLEN CLARKE.

Thank you very much for voting for us, it's a great privilege to be number two.

The Hollies

THANKS YOU FAB
G GARDNA CREBS
FRON THE BOYS
THE MEN -
THE BEATLES
Sahlemur Nov '68

Message from ELVIS PRESLEY on MGM set of 'Chautauqua' . . .

I AM TRULY IMPRESSED TO RECEIVE THE NEWS THAT
I AM NAMED AMONG THE WINNERS OF THE NME POLL
I VALUE YOUR VOTE OF LOYALTY
ALWAYS, ELVIS

A big thankyou to all
N.M.E readers for giving
me a very happy five years!
and special congratulations
to hulu for being such a good
singer and deserved No. 1!
With love
Dusty

From DUSTY



From CLIFF . . .

Many thanks to all of you
for your 'votes'!!
Cliff

From the SHADOWS . . .

You've made us happy with your votes,
we hope we continue to make you happy
with our music!
Bruce, Brian, John, Paul

A MILLION MERCI-S FOR ALL YOUR VOTES FROM
JIMMY SAVILE,
PART-TIME PORTER LEEDS INFIRMARY

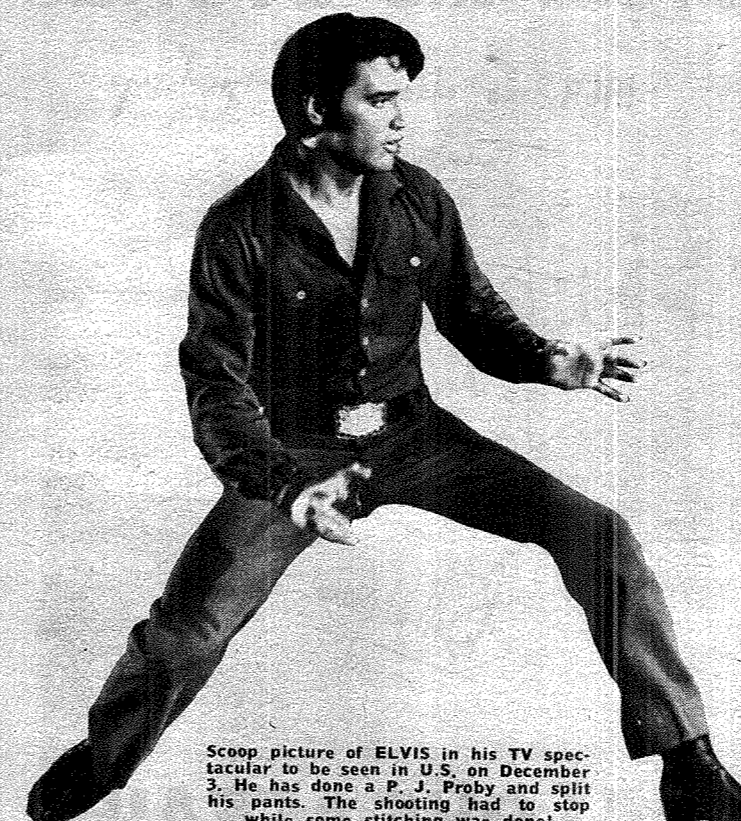


MORGAN EVER SO
Nice
STEVE Thanks
MARVELLOUS
MICK WOW!
Wonderful
GREAT
TA!
REX
A Million
LUVELY
MO
MUCH!
THANK YOU



My Sincere and Grateful Thanks

MARY HOPKIN, LOVE AFFAIR NEW TOPPER Stones, Shadows, Savile, 'Top Of The Pops' retain titles



Scoop picture of ELVIS in his TV spectacular to be seen in U.S. on December 7. He has done a P. J. Proby and split his pants. The shooting had to stop while some stitching was done!

place, and Bee Gees into fourth. I find it difficult to understand how the Shadows can be classed as a vocal group of top quality, but who am I to argue with 1,702 voters?

The Trombones have gained three places on last year to come sixth, and newcomers to the section are Cream, Love Affair, Amen Corner, Herd, Dave Dee, Moody Blues (a remarkable achievement without a big single hit), Casuals and Fleetwood Mac.

Who, Small Faces and Dave Clark maintain their popularity of last year in this group.

New Disc Singer

In this section, the "candidates" were nominated by virtue of their progress in the charts of 1968 and two singers rose head and shoulders above the rest. Mary Hopkin gained a huge vote of 7,275 and Joe Cocker 6,294, making them very definite runaway favourites.

Barry Ryan, a late starter with only one hit, came third and Julie Driscoll, who started the year well and has tailed off a bit, came in a strong fourth. Readers considered Arthur Brown not such a "crazy world" man but a vocalist to be reckoned with, by voting him fifth above Des O'Connor and Richard Harris, two names which have cropped up in so many sections.

In the last five places we have

John Rowles, a singer with a great future. Don Partridge, Graham Bonnet (of the Marbles), Lespy Lee and Solomon King. So that's how the NME readers placed the most promising newcomers. It will be interesting to see how they fare next year in the open market.

Best New Group

This was another section in which a list of "candidates" were given by NME to be voted for, to choose the best of the many new groups to emerge chartwise during 1968.

The winners of a close fight were Love Affair, whose following must obviously be a very strong one and it proves that fans can soon forgive (if they feel it is wrong at all) the admission that the first disc hit had none of them playing on it, just Steve Ellis singing. Since then, they do play on disc, of course.

Casuals and Fleetwood Mac tied for second place. It seems justice that a group which has done so well abroad (in Italy) should make good in its own land and this honour proves that the Casuals have now done so. The Mac, too, have made great strides in winning popularity for what was not so long ago a very underground group.

The Brian Auger Trinity is another group which has been knocking at the door for recognition for a long time and now gets it in no uncertain



THE BEATLES — World Vocal Group champions yet again!

Vocal Personality

The British Personality section is different from the World Personality section in that it asks for a vocal personality rather than a musical (a broader term) personality.

Therefore Cliff Richard is a worthy winner, as his personality as a vocalist (and as a man) is impeccable. He leads the field by over 1,000 votes, Tom Jones coming second and Paul McCartney, another good guy, making third place.

A surprise is finding Lulu at fourth, a very high placing for a girl in a Poll which has a majority of girls voting. Other girls to be listed are Dusty 7, Cilla Black 12, Julie Driscoll 14, Mary Hopkin 16, a very good showing for the females.

John Lennon and Scott Walker are still well voted for, despite the fact

that they hide away from the public a lot these days.

Engelbert and Val Doonican are two personalities who are seen a great deal, but they come lower down in the list, as do Jimi Hendrix and Mick Jagger, who really hasn't had a very good individual Poll.

Des O'Connor pops up again, taking the place of Ken Dodd, who figured in last year's Poll. Other newcomers to this section are Julie Driscoll, Arthur Brown, Mary Hopkin, Joe Cocker and Richard Harris.

Vocal Group

This is the Beatles' preserve and once again they take an enormous lead over all comers, some 8,000 in front of the runners-up, who are the Hollies, a fine performance in putting the Rolling Stones into third



LULU relaxes at home in a V-necked Dical dress in her favourite colour—bright citrus yellow.

manner with fourth place, Status Quo have done well, too, as have the Equals, Marbles and Marmalade.

And those dizzy curly-heads, the Paper Dolls, can take credit for being voted above three male groups — Honeybus, Cupid's Inspiration and Locomotive.

Disc Jockey

Back into top place goes the ever-chattering, ever-encouraging others eccentric called Jimmy Savile, who breaks the tie of last year with Tony Blackburn by some 300 votes. But Tony remains a firm favourite and a lot of votes above third man, Kenny Everett, who jumps four places from last year.

Newcomer John Peel is in at 4, with three other new to the Poll

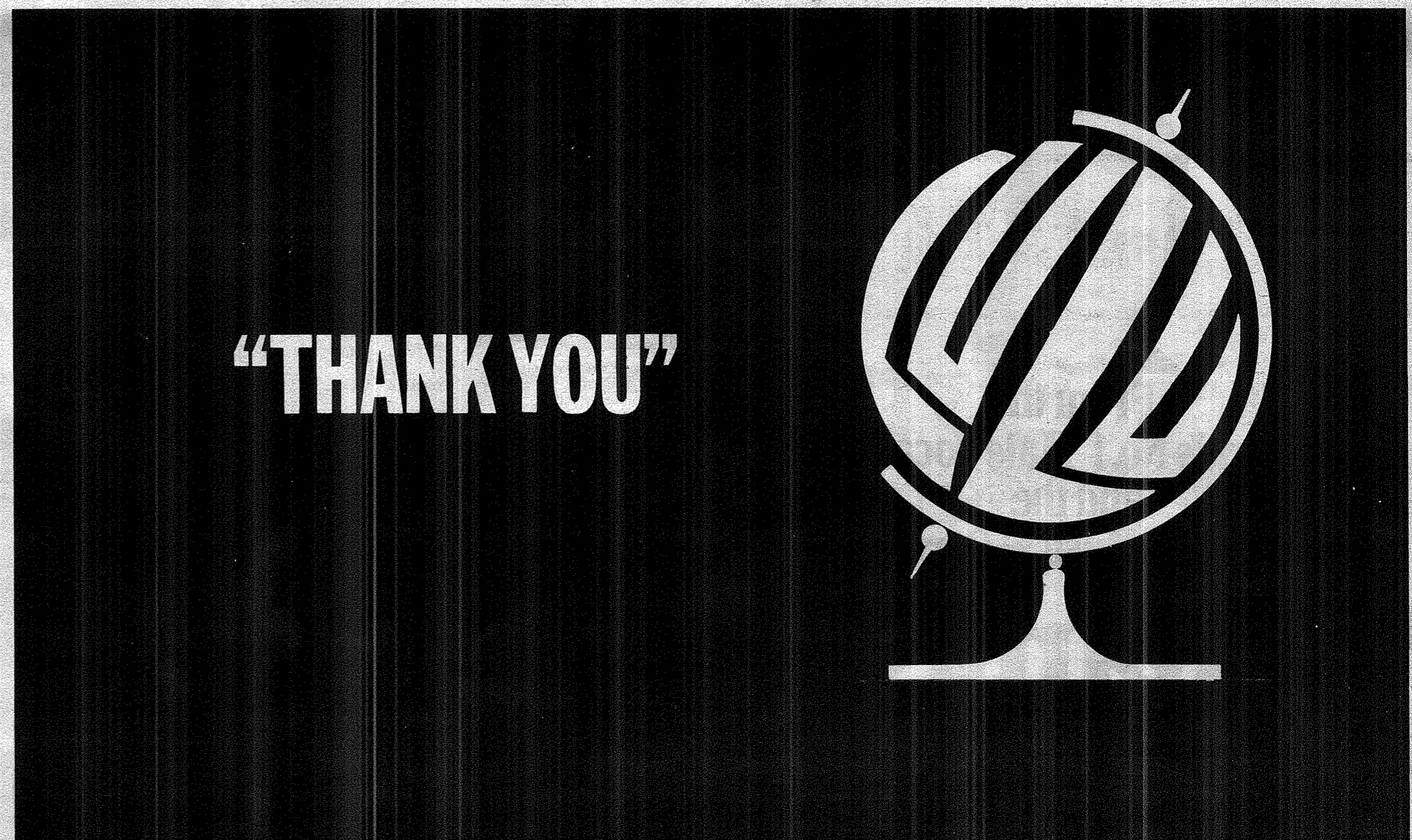
lists — Emperor Rosko 6, David Symonds 8, and Tony Prince 9. Stuart Henry, who is much maligned at times in our letter column, is also loved enough to make fifth place, up four on last year, while Alan Freeman 7, and Johnnie Walker 10 remain in the Top Ten.

Rhythm and Blues

I can't help feeling this section should just be called Blues Group, because there are few, if any, of the ten groups named by voters who would say they were now true rhythm-and-blues groups.

However, we must hand it to the Rolling Stones for retaining by a whacking margin their title, almost

(Continued on next page)



OLD FAVOURITES REMAIN AT THE TOP

4,600 votes ahead of the newcomer runners-up. Fleetwood Mac, who have done so well in the Poll this year.

Next comes Jimi Hendrix Experience and just behind the Cream, both improving on last year's positions. John Mayall's Bluesbreakers grab the 5th spot to stay in this section, and Amen Corner remain too, at No. 9. Then we come to four groups in for the first time — Brain Auger, Trinity 6, Moody Blues 7, Geno Washington 8 and Joe Cocker and Grease Band 10.

Strange to find missing from the top places such names as Traffic, Foundations, Alan Price Set and Spencer Davis.

Instrumental Unit

This section embraces any sort of band, be it a small group or a large orchestra, with the accent on instrumental playing and not on vocal performance.

It is the division that is the Shadows preserve and once again they have walked it, with a majority of over 9,000 votes. Let us hope they will continue to reign supreme after their re-formation at the end of the year when drummer Brian Bennett and maybe rhythm guitarist Bruce Welch are leaving. This is the ninth year they have won the honour.

The Cream, too, are breaking up at the end of the year, but before they do they will know that their fans voted them into 2nd place by another big margin over the third place, which is occupied by the Nice, a group with a great following.

Best TV/Radio Show

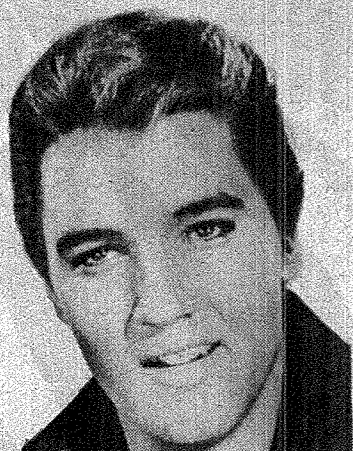
Here is another section in which we have a foregone conclusion and once again "Top Of The Pops", yes, it's number one! Johnnie Stewart and his gang of tireless backstage whippers up an enthusiasm that rubs off on the show and presents the



SHADOWS (l. to r.) JOHN ROSTILL, BRUCE WELCH, HANK MARVIN and BRIAN BENNETT.

Best Disc of 1968

Finally, we come to the section in which you voted for just one side



From the World's No.1 Male Vocalist and the World's No.1 Musical Personality

"Thanks!"

Elvis Presley



A new picture of the ROLLING STONES, who posed (rather reluctantly, it would seem!) at Wembley's Weekend Television Studios before their appearance on the Frost Show at the weekend.

Best TV/Radio Show

Here is another section in which we have a foregone conclusion and once again "Top Of The Pops", yes, it's number one! Johnnie Stewart and his gang of tireless backstage whippers up an enthusiasm that rubs off on the show and presents the

Best Disc of 1968

Finally, we come to the section in which you voted for just one side

AT THE TOP From the STONES

1969 is also a very good year thank you.



and LOVE AFFAIR..



LOVE AFFAIR (l. to r.) REX BRAYLEY, MAURICE BACON, STEVE ELLIS, MICK JACKSON and MORGAN FISHER.

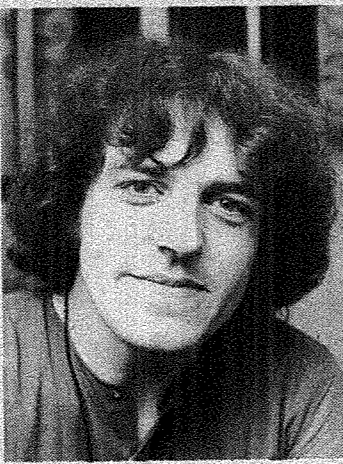
ANDY GRAY NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS 112 THE STRAND VC2

TO ALL NME READERS . THANKS A MILLION TIMES . WHAT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT . WE LOVE YOU ALL . THE LOVE AFFAIR STEVE REX MO MICK AND MORGAN .

To all those who Your votes have voted us into the meant a great deal NME poll, a big to us. thank you. THE CASUALS



The CASUALS (l. to r., top) ALAN "PLUG" TAYLOR, JOHN TEBB, HOWARD NEWCOMB and (sitting) BOB O'BRIEN.



JOE COCKER appears in several sections of the Poll and is runner-up in the New Singer division.

Who's top of the D.J. pops for the fifth time? Who else but Jimmy Savile — the D.J.

The D.J. the guys and gals go for. The D.J. who does such a brilliant job promoting Lybro jeans on radio that he's called 'Mr. Lybro of Luxembourg' — a title we at Lybro are proud to acknowledge.

CONGRATULATIONS JIMMY!

Lybro of Liverpool, Mount Vernon, Liverpool 7

RECALLS INSPIRATIONS OF LP

been talking about "The um and he is understandably cover versions of his songs. -01, Ob-la-da" is, currently ng he has reservations about 1 whether this could affect a other. (And why shouldn't e that: is there shame in

By ALAN SMITH

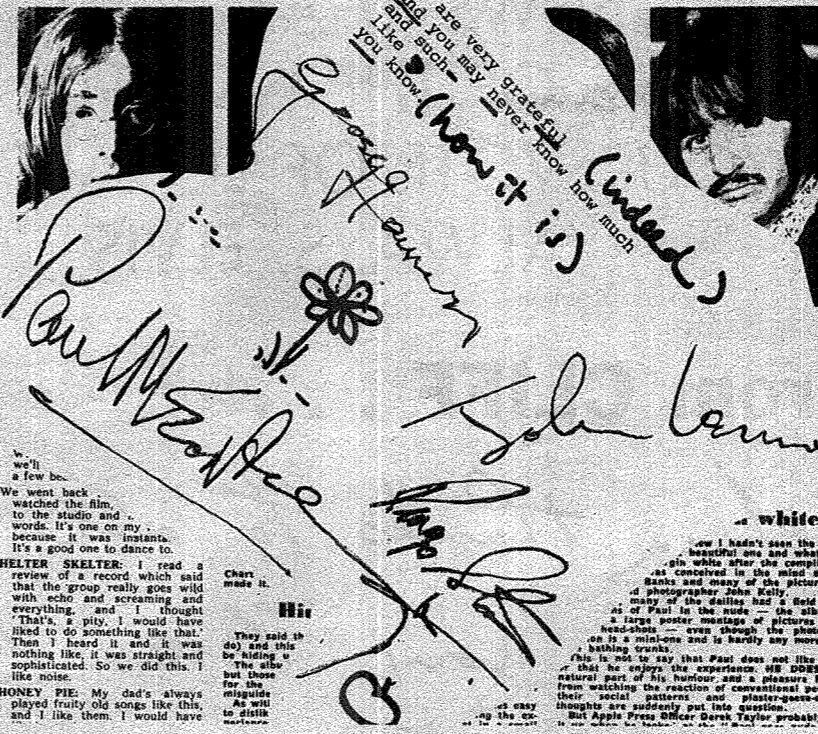
heads and then into their bands, and then into their bands. Of other of his compositions, or part compositions, he said on Radio Luxembourg last week.

BLACKBURN: This is just one of those rock-and-roll songs, it lacks. Because it is a bit different from anything else I've heard. It's a bit of a blackbird sound at the end there's all.

WHY DON'T WE DO IT IN ROAD: We've always been the rock group, the Beatles. It's that way, not completely the "roll. That's why we do "Ob-la-da" one minute and then the Hamburg we didn't play rock 'n' roll at all. We had those fat old businessmen coming in — and then old businessmen as well — and saying they'd be a manager, or a rick. So we had to get into this kind of stuff.

I WILL: This is pretty smooth why there's a great variety on this LP and in everything we do. "We just haven't got one bag, the Beatles. One bag would get "Why Don't We Do It In Road" the same filler, and I would like to hear we are."

BRENDAN: The Girl Can't Help It was on television. Pat



A thank-you, specially designed and signed by the BEATLES.

BEATLES, TONY BLACKBURN FLEETWOOD MAC thanks



Telegrams from World Champions

LULU..

The FLEETWOOD MAC — once thought too way-out to get in any pop Poll. L. to r.: PETER GREEN, JEREMY SPENCER, (behind) MICK FLEETWOOD, JOHN MCVIE and DANNY KIRWAN.

I AM ABSOLUTELY OVERCOME STOP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE N M E AND ALL THE READERS FOR THEIR VOTE STOP WALKING ON AIR STOP LOVE FOR EVER = LULU +

and TOM JONES...

= 4053 = MUENCHEN/TLX 12 29 1720 =

==TO ANDY GRAY NEWMUSEX=LONDON

==THANK YOU EVERYONE EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYTHING =

TOM =

Congratulations...

- Louis Armstrong
- The Beach Boys
- The Beatles
- Cilla Black
- Mama Cass
- The Dave Clark Five
- Joe Cocker
- Billy Fury
- Marvin Gaye
- The Grease Band
- Richard Harris
- The Hollies
- Solomon King
- John Lennon
- The Locomotive
- Joe Loss & His Orchestra
- Lulu
- The Mamas & The Papas
- Mireille Mathieu
- Hank Marvin
- Paul McCartney
- The Move
- Des O'Connor
- Don Partridge
- Gene Pitney
- Cliff Richard
- Diana Ross
- The Shadows
- The Supremes
- The Four Tops
- Brian Wilson

BEST DISC OF 1968

- No. 1 Hey Jude—The Beatles
- No. 4 Congratulations—Cliff Richard
- No. 5 With A Little Help From My Friends—Joe Cocker

