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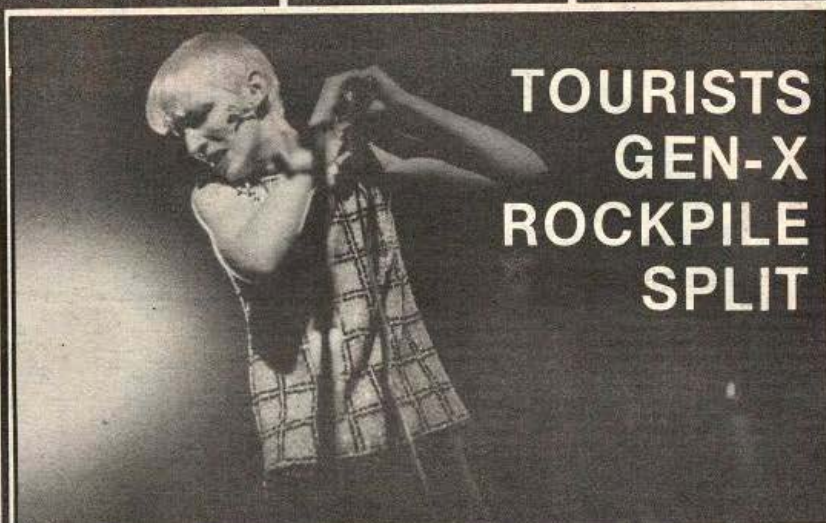
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# NEWS

Edited by ROBIN SMITH and DANIELA SOAVE



## TOURISTS GEN-X ROCKPILE SPLIT

Annie Lennox "greatly relieved."

**THE TOURISTS, Rockpile and Gen X have all decided to split up and call it a day.**

After a career which has seen four hit singles and three albums the Tourists decided to split up in Bangkok, following a lengthy tour of Australia and the Far East.

The main reason for the split apparently arises out of differences in personal and musical direction. Annie Lennox told Record Mirror this week "We were greatly relieved by the decision to call it a day. Our musical attitudes were becoming gradually polarised as well as having to cope with our steadily deteriorating personal

relationships."

Since the split Annie and guitarist Dave Stewart have formed a new project under the name of Eurythmics, and they have been recording in Cologne with a selection of European musicians. A single and album from the line up is expected in the next few months.

Ending much speculation, Rockpile, the band fronted by Dave Edmunds, producer of the Stray Cats, admitted they were quitting this week. In a short statement issued this week the band said "The members of Rockpile have all agreed to devote their time to pursuing solo careers and therefore

Rockpile will be disbanding. They wish it to be known that their decision is a joint and amicable one."

Gen X bite the dust only a month after their much heralded comeback. Reasons for the split still aren't fully known, some rumours say that Billy Idol is interested in moving to New York.

A statement issued by their record company Chrysalis said this week, "This has been in the air for some time. Billy is keen on embracing a solo career but the careers of the other three are a bit uncertain. Tony might form another group, but no one has made other plans."

## MEGASTORE MEGATOUR

CHRIS SIEVEY and the Freshies the Manchester based band whose single 'I'm In Love With The Girl On A Certain Manchester Megastore Check Out Desk' is creeping up the charts, play their first major tour starting this month. Dates are: St Neots Priory Leisure Centre, February 26, Retford Porterhouse 27, Manchester Polytechnic 28, London Venue March 2, Newcastle University 6, Bath Tiffanys 10, Bristol Berkeley's 11, York College of Rippon and St John, Port Talbot Troubadour 19, Pembroke Dock Cleda Bridge Hotel 21, London Marquee 23, Scarborough Penthouse 27.

## DOWN TO EARTH

DURAN DURAN, EMI's new futurist signing, whose new single 'Planet Earth' has just been released will be playing the following dates: Aston University February 27, Liverpool Brady's March 2, Manchester Polytechnic 3, London Sundown 4, Cardiff Top Rank 6, Leicester Polytechnic 7, Sheffield Top Rank 8. It is expected that Duran Duran will be releasing a new album soon.

## ECHO TOUR

ECHO AND The Bunnymen who recently played a bizarre gig in the Peak District begin a more down to earth tour in April. Dates confirmed are: Nottingham Rock City April 24, Aylesbury Friars 25, Liverpool Empire 25, Bristol Colston Hall 27, Sheffield City Hall 28, Edinburgh Odeon 29, Newcastle City Hall 30, Lancaster University May 1, Bradford University 2, Manchester Apollo 3, Guildford Civic Hall 4, Cardiff Top Rank 5, Brighton Top Rank 6, Coventry Tiffanys 7, Birmingham Odeon 8, Hamersmith Odeon 9.

## WANDERERS JOIN HANDS

THE WANDERERS, the band formed by ex Sham 69 members and former Dead Boy Stilv Bators, have signed to Polydor.

The line up is Stiv on lead vocals, Dave Parsons lead guitar and vocals, Ricky Rocket drums and Dave Treganna on bass and vocals. Their debut single 'Ready To Snap' is due to be released on March 27 when the band will also begin a British tour.

Their new album is being produced by Mick Glossop who's worked with the Skids and the Ruts and should be out in April.

## OUT OF THEIR LEAGUE

THE HUMAN League's new single — their first since Ian Marsh and Martyn Ware quit the band — is now available.

'Boys And Girls' has the B side 'Tom Baker' an ode to the actor of the same name who is quitting 'Doctor Who' after years of faithful service.

The League won't be undertaking any live gigs until at least July, because their two new girl members, Joanne and Susanne, will be working on their A Levels.

## RELEASES

THE LAMBRETTAS release their new single 'Good Times' this week. It's taken from their new album 'Ambience' which will be released in April.

THE METHOD release their debut album 'Chances' this week. The album comprises a live side recorded at London Dingwalls while the other side includes the band's current single 'Moi-2 Chances'.

THE STIFFS release their new single 'Goodbye My Love' this week. It's a re-work of the old Glitter Band single while the B side is 'Magic Roundabout' a Stiffs original composition.

TRIARCHY release their new EP this week. The EP features three tracks 'Metal Messiah', 'Sweet Alcohol' and 'Hellbound On My Trail'.

LANDSCAPE fronted by Spandau Ballet producer Richard Burgess release their new album 'From The Tea Rooms of Mars To The Hell Holes of Uranus' on March 6.

NEWCASTLE Six piece band Junco Partners release their debut single 'Tall Windows' on March 6 on the Energy label.

SKY release their third album for Arista 'Sky 3' on March 20. The album features 10 tracks including 'Sarabande'.

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## IN BRIEF

•EDDIE AND The Hot Rods will headline the Froebel institutes rag ball at the Students Union in Grove House Roehampton Lane London on February 28. The ball runs from 8 pm to 1.30 pm. Tickets are £2.50 in advance from the Institute or £2.75 on the door.

•SWEDISH BAND Dave and the Mistakes will be supporting Elvis Costello and the Attractions on their forthcoming tour. Elvis saw them in their native Sweden and negotiated to bring them over to Britain.

•VIRGIN RECORDS will be distributing The Passage's 'Devils And Angels' single. The band have also started work on a second album which should be out in April or May.

•STEVE GRESSWELL will be presenting his 'Story Of The Gods' concept at Reading Hexagon on May 25. Steve will be joined on stage by the local youth orchestra and the show will later be broadcast by Radio 210. Gresswell is also working on a major record deal.

•CAPITAL RADIO'S 1981 Jazz Festival should be held on Clapham Common on July 18, 19, 25, 26. The Radio Station have applied to the GLC for a licence and guests lined up for the festival include Chuck Berry.

•THE GANG OF Four have changed their Hammermith Palais date from March 31 to March 30.

•THE TEA SET were forced to cancel gigs at London's Hope and Anchor last week after singer Nick Egan fell sick. He has a serious throat infection and will be going into hospital for a minor operation in March. All live gigs have been cancelled to the middle of next month when they play the London Rock Garden March 20.

•SLADE will be supported by Liverpool hard rock band Export on the second leg of their tour which starts this week. Export have a new single 'You Gotta Rock' available on their own label His Masters Vice.

## NEW VENUE

A NEW rock venue, the Park Hall Arena between Liverpool and Manchester on the M6, looks like booming a major concert attraction in the summer.

Promoter Brian Adams wants to stage one day outdoor rock extravaganzas at the 20,000 capacity venue, which lies close to the Charnock Richard service station between Chorley Wood and Preston.

The arena was the scene of festivals back in 1976 and 1977. Adams wants to put on a number of leading bands, but no names have been finalised as yet.

## Q FOR WHO

THE Q TIPS who will be supporting the Who in London, Southampton and Poole begin a series of dates in their own right this month.

The band will be playing Leamington Spa Royal Centre February 26, Oxford Polytechnic 27, Leicester University 28, Birmingham University Lake Hall March 6, Canterbury Kent University 7, Bath Tiffanys 8, Cleethorpes Peppers Club 20, Leeds Polytechnic 21, Kirk Levington Country Club 22, London Marquee 26, 27, 28.

The Tips will also be recording a new single to be rush released in the third week of March.

## DO WHAT JOHN?

THE POLECATS, a fast emerging rockabilly band who recently signed to Phonogram, begin stage two of their British tour in March with dates at: Stoke North Staffs Polytechnic March 20, Calster Ladbroke's Holiday Centre March 22, Manchester Polytechnic 24, Sheffield Limit 26, Liverpool Bradys 27, Edinburgh Nite Club 28, Bath Tiffanys 31, Bristol Berkeley Club April 1, Plymouth Polytechnic 2, Birmingham Cedar Club 3, London Venue 4.

The band release their new single, 'John 'I'm Only Dancing' on Friday and will shortly begin work on recording their first album.

## PIRANHAS TEETH IN

THE PIRANHAS who will begin recording a new single shortly, will be playing a series of dates this month: Richmond Brollys February 23, Central London Polytechnic March 6, Herne Hill Hall Moon 7, Hastings Queens Club 13, London Scutbank Polytechnic 20, London Venue April 3, Hastings Pier 10.

After they've released their as yet untitled single in April, the band will also be doing a club tour.

## STRAY CATS REARRANGE

THE STRAY CATS have been forced to re-arrange part of their tour and they'll now be playing Edinburgh Tiffanys March 9, Glasgow Tiffanys 10, Newcastle Mayfair 12. In addition they'll be playing Guernsey Beau Sjour March 25, Jersey Fort Regent Leisure Centre 28.



Pic by Jane Harper

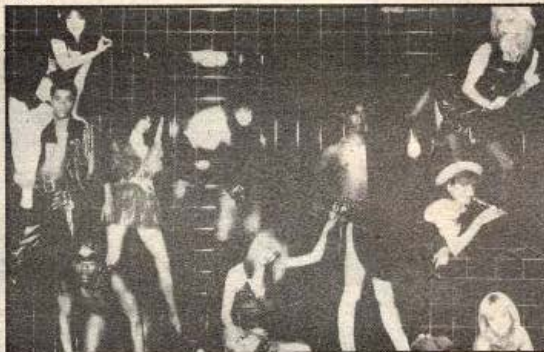
"Nothing to worry about," says Dury.

## DURY DENIES SPLIT WITH STIFF

IAN DURY has denied rumours that he is planning to leave Stiff Records and negotiate a new record deal.

He told RECORD MIRROR this week "my contract with Stiff has always been more of a handshake affair. All the questions that are being asked seem to make out that there's something worrying going on and there isn't any worrying going on."

The rumours started when it was said that Dury had fulfilled his current contract with Stiff and would be looking for another record label.



## BACK WITH FRONT

HOT GOSSIP, the real stars of Kenny Everett's Video Show, will be playing a series of mainly college dates throughout March — their first ever tour of this nature.

Dates are: London School of Economics March 2, Edinburgh Usher Hall 4, Aberdeen University 5, Glasgow University 6, Strathclyde University 7, Glasgow Ultrateck 8, Cardiff University 13, Manchester University 14, University of East Anglia 15, Loughborough University 17, Sheffield University 18, Preston Polytechnic 23, Llandrillo Colwyn Bay Pier 24, Polytechnic of Wales 25.

## QUO ADD YET MORE

STATUS QUO have added a second leg to their British tour. Quo, who are already playing 12 major shows in March will play a further seven shows beginning in May.

The new dates are Wembley Arena May 26, 27, (tickets £4.50, £5.50, £6.50) Bridlington Spa Hall 29, (tickets £6) Deeside Leisure Centre 30, (tickets £6) Carlisle Market Hall 31 (tickets £6) Southampton Gaumont June 2, 3, (tickets £5, £6).

For the Wembley, Carlisle and Southampton concerts, tickets will be available by postal application only. For Southampton applications should be sent direct to the Gaumont Theatre enclosing a SAE. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Southampton Gaumont.

For the Wembley and Carlisle gigs postal applications should be sent to FTMO, PO Box 4NB, London 4NB. Enclose a SAE and cheques and postal orders should be made payable to FTMO.

The tour will be Quo's most extensive to date. Called 'The Never Too Late Tour 1981' it takes its name from Quo's new album 'Never Too Late' released on March 13. This will be the follow up to their certified gold album 'Just Supposin' and contains 10 tracks recorded at the Windmill Studios in Ireland. Apart from the title track other songs from the album include their current single 'Something 'Bout You Baby I Like', 'Take Me Away' and 'Caro!'

## GIRLS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

GIRLSCHOOL release their second album on April 10 and play a lengthy tour the same month.

The tour will follow on a selection of European dates in France, Sweden and Italy supporting Motorhead. Guest appearances by Motorhead on Girlschool's British dates, cannot be ruled out!

The schedule runs: Hanley Victoria Hall April 15, Derby Assembly Rooms 16, Middlesbrough Gaskins 18, Newcastle City Hall 19, Edinburgh Odeon 21, Glasgow Apollo 22, Preston Guildhall 23, Manchester Free Trade Hall 24, Liverpool Royal Court 25, Birmingham Odeon 27, Leicester De Montfort Hall 28, Sheffield Top Rank 29, Bristol Colston Hall May 1, Plymouth Palace Theatre 2, Bournemouth Winter Gardens 3, Brighton Corn Exchange 4, Hammersmith Palais 5.

Girlschool's manager Doug Smith has now added Vardis to his roster of successful heavy metal acts. The band recently split with their management company and the overworked Doug will be looking after their affairs until he finds a new manager for them.

## LENE'S NEW TOY

LENE LOVICH steps back into action with the release of her new single 'New Toy' this week. The new single will also be available on cassette packaged in a flip top box and the B sides for both the single and cassette will be an instrumental 'Cats Away'.

'New Toy' was written by Tom Dolby, keyboard player for Bruce Woolley and the Camera Club, who met Lene in America.

## SELECTER ADD

THE SELECTER have so far added four dates to their March tour details which were announced in Record Mirror two weeks ago.

The new dates are: Bolton Sports Centre March 18, Leicester De Montfort Hall 28, Swindon Oasis 28, Birmingham Odeon 29. The band plan to confirm one more date in England shortly, which will be followed by four or five dates in Ireland and some European dates.

Selecter's new album 'Celebrate The Bullet' is released this Friday.



Pauline Black

TOUR NEWS ON PAGE 4

the  
**VAPORS**  
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Spiders

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FROM THE FORTHCOMING ALBUM  
'MAGNETS'

**THE VAPORS**

**THE VAPORS:** who have just returned from their second sell-out tour of America, will play a British tour in March, their first since June last year. To coincide with this, they are releasing their second album 'Magnets' on March 9. Dates so far are: Scarborough Taboo Club March 6, Durham University 7, Manchester Polytechnic 10, Guildford Civic Hall '1, Brighton University of Sussex 12, Birmingham Aston University 13, Watford Hertford College of Education 14, Cheltenham Eves Club 16, Leeds Warehouse 17, Southport Floral Hall 18, Newcastle Polytechnic 20, Retford Porterhouse Club 21, Halifax Civic Theatre 22, Bath Tiffany's 27, Barnstaple Chequers 26, Rainbow Roehampton Froebel Educational Institute 28. A major London venue will be announced soon. Their new single 'Spiders' is now available.

**NEW MUSIK**

**NEW MUSIK:** embark on a college and university tour next week, supported by Snips. Their second album 'Luxury' is released on March 6 and dates are as follows. Brighton University March 4, Hastings Queens College, 5 Poole Dorset Institute 6, Dudley Town Hall 7, Croydon Fairfield Hall 8, Nottingham Trent Polytechnic 10, Bradford Tiffany's 12, Crawley Technical College 13, Birmingham Digbeth Civic Hall 15, Leeds Warehouse 16, Hull University 17, Middlesbrough Town Hall 18, Manchester University 19, Glasgow Queen Margaret University 20, Northampton Nene College 25, Liverpool Warehouse 26, Cambridge St Neots 27, Corby Festival Hall 23. Snips re-releases their single 'Nine O'Clock' on March 2.

**RELUCTANT STEREOTYPES**

**RELUCTANT STEREOTYPES:** kick off their first major tour of 1981 at Nottingham Rock City February 25, London Half Moon Herne Hill 28, Leeds Warehouse March 10, London 100 Club 17, London Greyhound 24, London 101 Club 25, London Charing Cross Medical School 27, Swindon Brunel Rooms 31, Newport Stowaways April 1, London Marquee 3, Coventry General Wolfe 9, London Marquee 10, Solihull Civic Hall 11, Lin-



*The Vapors will be sniffing around in March.*

coln Drill Hall 16, London Marquee 24, May 1.

**THE PIRANHAS**

**THE PIRANHAS:** will be featuring new material on their forthcoming tour which starts Richmond Brollys February 28, Central London Polytechnic March 6, London Half Moon Herne Hill 7, Hastings Queens Club 13, London South Bank Polytechnic 20, London Venue April 3, Hastings Pier 10.

**THE STILETTOS**

**THE STILETTOS:** celebrate their first nationwide TV slot - 'The Oxford Run' show on February 27 at 7.25pm. They'll also play Bath Moles Club 26 and Newbridge Memorial Hall March 1, before recording their new single, then returning North to play Teeside Polytechnic March 11, Leeds Trinity and All Saints College 13, Warwick University 14, Southend Roots Club 15.

**dB's**

**dB's:** have added two extra dates to their UK tour at Manchester

**TOUR**

Polytechnic February 28, Birmingham Cedars March 5.

**GEDDES AXE**

**GEDDES AXE:** will play the Chesterfield Brimington Tavern on March 27, not February 27 as previously advertised. Other dates for March include Grantham Guildhall 7, Leeds Florde Green 8, Barton on Humber youth centre 25.

**LITTLE BOB STORY**

**LITTLE BOB STORY:** The French band will be playing the following British dates. Canterbury University of Kent February 25, Bristol Granary 26, London Rock Garden 28, Hailsham Crown March 1, London Hope and Anchor 2, London Bridge House 4, London Dingwells 6.

**TOUR DE FORCE**

**TOUR DE FORCE:** after a break of four months play the following dates. Northampton Nene College February 26, London St Thomas's Hospital March 6, London St George's Hospital 13.

**DELTA 5:**

**DELTA 5:** along with Joseph K and The Nightingales will play the London School of Economics on February 28.

**SPIDER**

**SPIDER:** have extended their 'Boogie Till We Drop Tour' into March. Leeds Florde Green March 1, Cambridge Great Northern 4, Bicester Red Lion 7, Liverpool Warehouse 13, Ashton under Lyne Spredaeagle 14, Hatfield Stonehouse 15, Gravesend Red Lion 20, Ashton under Lyne Spredaeagle 27, Preston Warehouse 28.

**CHAS AND DAVE**

**CHAS AND DAVE:** whose new single 'Poor Old Mr Woogie' has just been released, play Reading Hexagon Theatre March 6, Leatherhead Leisure Centre 7, Manchester Golden Garter 12, 13, 14, Watford Baileys, 16,

17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Southampton Solent Suite 25, Leamington Spa Royal Spa Centre, 26, Norwich Cromwells 27, London Dominion Theatre 29, Purfleet Circus Tavern April 1, 2, 3, 4.

**JUDIE TZUKE**

**JUDIE TZUKE:** has made a few changes to her tour. She will now play Salford University on March 3 instead of Manchester Apollo. The concerts at Newcastle and Sheffield are at the Polytechnic not at the University, and an additional date has been included at the Hatfield Forum on March 8.

**THE STRANGLERS**

**THE STRANGLERS:** have added more dates to their current tour Coventry New Theatre March 4, West Runtun Pavilion 5, Cambridge Corn Exchange 6, London Rainbow 7.



*Little Bob Story. Doing his subtle impression of a flying mallet in the groin.*

**BOW WOW WOW**

**BOW WOW WOW:** have added a string of dates to their current tour. Durham University March 17, Poole Arts Centre 19, Taunton Odeon 20, St Austell Cornwall Coliseum 21, Bristol Locarno 22, Brighton Top Rank 23, Cardiff Top Rank 25, Derby Assembly Room 26, Cambridge Corn Exchange 27, St Albans City Hall 28, Wakefield Unity Hall 29, Edinburgh Tiffany's April 6, Glasgow Tiffany's 7, Lincoln Drill Hall 9, Birmingham Odeon 10, Northampton Cricket Club 11, London Lyceum 12.

**THE PHOTOS**

**THE PHOTOS:** who begin a short British tour on March 6, have added two more dates to their itinerary. They will now play Cheltenham Eves March 8, Sheffield Limits 17. The guest band on all dates will be Jools Holland and the Millionaires.

**GANG OF FOUR**

**GANG OF FOUR:** have added two dates at Leeds Tiffany's March 15, Oxford New Theatre 29.

**CIMARONS**

**CIMARONS:** play the following dates to promote their new single 'Ready For Love'. Galway Seapoint February 27, Cork Downtown Campers 28, Limerick Pathway Hotel March 1, Sligo Bue Lagoon 2, Coleraine University 3, Belfast Jordanstone Polytechnic 4, Dublin Trinity College 5, Liverpool Brady's 6, Plymouth Polytechnic 7, Sunderland Mayfair 12, Manchester Mosside Community Centre 13, Brighton Top Rank 18, London 100 Club 19.

**WEAPON OF PEACE**

**WEAPON OF PEACE:** whose new single 'If' is out on March 8 play Cheltenham Eves March 2, London Dingwells 3, Glasgow Cinders 5, Edinburgh Astoria 6, Glasgow Technical College 7, Glenrothes Arms 8, Thurrock Technical College 10, Brighton Polytechnic 11, Portsmouth Polytechnic 12, London Queen Elizabeth College 13, London Chelsea College 14, Sutton Bonnington School of Agriculture 17, Bradford University 18, Bath College of Education 19, Liverpool Notre Dame College 21.



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# DON'T LOOK NOW

**O**FF WE go then. We will start, if you're sitting comfortably, where we started last week. That was in the exotic paradise called Montserrat where down in George Martin's studio Paul McCartney and Richard Starkey have attracted more reporters than Lady Diana Spencer in a strip show.

First up Paul reckons that he's had enough of being this wicked world and wants to "start a new life" on the remote Caribbean island. "I don't want to end up with some crazy guy making a target out of me and my family," claims Paul with understandable ferocity. Trouble is that the maggots of the world's press, hoping for a Beatles reunion minus one situation, have put the wind up our Scouse lad so much that he rammed his jeep into a photographer's car after a "chase on a mountain road". I must admit I find it disgusting that the press should hound our lad especially since All Martin has declined my invitation to cover the situation in Montserrat for the next nine months but dem's de breaks...

**MEANWHILE OVER** in America the John Lennon remembrance drive has taken some interesting turns. First of all it seems that the sentiments of 'Imagine', "Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can", is given credence by his fans as they are ignoring the Lennon memorabilia in favour of sending donations to charity in the singer's name. Even 'Beatlemania' the play has been lagging in ticket sales. The reasons being proffered seem to point to Lennon's fans being younger, more sophisticated, better educated and more committed to political change than Elvis Presley's death when the souvenirs sold better than half price pound notes.



"I'm in love with the girl who got fired from a certain..."

**AND AS** the Freshies single sinks slowly down the national lists with their spiffingly titled 'I'm In Love With The Girl On A Certain / Virgin Manchester / Megastore Check-Out Desk, the lass in question is now not in possession of that immortal position.

Helen Cockburn, the magnificent maiden of the money, doesn't know whether she left or was pushed but she claims that she "didn't see eye to eye with the manager. I think he had a chip on his shoulder. I'm quite pleased really," she continues. "I've been here for 10 months which is 10 months too many. I enjoyed it for a while. It was a big novelty. I see it as a personal thing." Our courageous processor of the credit card says she will be doing some work with kids in Stockport and a few other projects.

And so 'Don't Look Now' cries a heartfelt tear and bids adieu to a woman who has stirred man's imagination in a way no other woman has captivated attention since Helen Of Troy, nay, the Virgin Mary (oops sorry!)



## SHOVEL BUCK

**D**ON'T LOOK now, but the great era of real pop groups may just be making a comeback... In the shape of Coast To Coast.

Remember all those groups who bashfully admitted that they didn't sing on their records? Whose favourite food was steak and chips? Who went back to work on a building site after their five minutes of fame and fortune?

Now meet Coast To Coast, whose suitably up-dated version of a song first recorded in 1940, has climbed into the Top 20. And if the record itself, already recorded by such famous names as Count Basie, Big Diddle and even good old Chubby Checker, isn't enough of an old chestnut, grab a load of their press release. "The biggest rock'n roll sensation of the year," they boast. "As the fans pop and wop to the music the Hucklebuck dance craze is sweeping the nation. It is being taught at no less than 700 dance centres."

And that's not all! As the Hucklebuck (a fairly mundane non-dance, moderately popular in the pre-Bill Haley days) "sweeps the nation" Coast To Coast are also weighing in with some real old-fashioned pop melodrama of their very own. Yes folks, the lead singer on the record is none other than ETB-a-week builder Alan Miller. As Alan moodily digs holes on a site in Northants new recruit Sandy Fontaine is hunching his shoulders and grabbing the limelight by miming to the song on 'TOTP'. What a swizz! Coast To Coast had been plugging away for three unsuccessful years before Alan finally knocked it on the head last year.

But since this is 1981, not 1950, this particular real-life story has a happy ending. Alan has been credited as vocalist on the record and will get his fair whack of the royalties, and quite right too, since it might be the only royalties CTC will ever get.

Now, anyone know where you can find 700 dance centres in Britain?

JOHN SHEARLAW

**WAS THAT** really Hazel O'Connor seen buying a ticket for Toyah's Rainbow gig on Saturday? Hmmm

**DAVE WAKELING**, flushed with the success of being named a good lucker last week, is about to make his debut in the photo story called 'Temptation' in the February 28 issue of 'Photo Love'. No, don't laugh this is serious. "Only her love stood between him and..." and how about "The prison door closed behind him but his greatest trial was yet to begin..." Good stuff, eh? It seems our lad is also a conchologist (he collects shells) he says "I like doing it in Wales. You get really big ones there..." What more can I say?

**ON A** trivial DLT feature on Radio

One the hirsute Mancunian found a real live Sgt Rock who's an aircraft fitter on an RAF base in Leicester.

The man runs the canteen which consists of the highly nutritional Mars bars, tea and sausage rolls. The Sarge, who answers to the name of Graham, can now be considered to be immortal.

**MIKE BARSON** was unfortunate enough to go down with the rather catchy disease of marriagitis. The plucky lass who snared him was his Dutch sweetheart Sandra Wilson (not very Dutch sounding eh?). It was such a quiet affair that his Madness cohorts didn't find out and his Mum took the pictures. The reception was held in the class of George's cafe in Holloway Road. The honeymoon a night out in Camden Town and the happy occasion took place at Finsbury Town Hall. Makes a change from the Hollywood versions of the wedding.

**LIGGER MORTIS** sets in: seen checking out Yank visitors the Bongos at the Embassy Club last week were Richard Strange, Michael des Barres, Blondie's Nigel Harrison, Lesley and Paul of the Au Pairs, Glen Matlock and of course R + + + + + D J + + + + + n of the Sk + ds.

**PAUSING ONLY** to recover from Friday's 'Great American Disaster' six-band bill at the Rainbow, the colonial contingent turned out in force to inspect the Fire Engines at the less expensive (phee!) Moonlight Club on Sunday night. Observing the Engines' dynamic performance (two short sets, no encores) were assorted Raybeats, Bongoes and Bush Tetras, to say nothing of Ramona from the Mo-dettes, all of Josef K and of course, it's that man again, R + + + + + D J + + + + + n.

**GARY RIPPON**, manager of Black Slate, had the wonderful experience of getting some new slates put on the roof of his Dulwich house the week before last. Last weekend he decided to away for the first time in two years and guess what? He got burgled through the new roof and was cleaned out better than a dose of Epsom salts.

**TALKING OF** the Au Pairs - and what more delicious topic of conversation is there? - they had a nightmare of a gig at the 100 Club (the arse end of Oxford Street) the other night. Their power failed during the opening number, and continued to cut out approximately every five minutes right through to the encore. Your scribe, incidentally, suffered insult and indignity at every turn, finding an obnoxious promoter refusing admission at the door, nowhere to leave the journalistic shoulder-bag and no drinks due to a shortage of glasses. Thanks to Au Pairs manager Martin for saving the day... The band, incidentally, refused to be thrown by the dearth of ee-leck-tricity and played a blinder. Lesley, be mine!

**WHATSALLHISTHEN** - the Fall being produced by Mickie Most on their next hit single? Shurely shorne mistake here... The Fall? Mickie Most? We here at Wah! the column are lost for words...

**SPANDAU BALLET** seemingly celebrated Valentine's Day by getting thrown out of the Embassy Club for being involved in fisticuffs with a person or persons unknown. Pretty uncool, eh kids? Raging sporrans, indeed. Wouldn't Tony Hadley be better occupied at his local Weightwatchers, anyway?

**NOW YOU** know us, and we're not ones to gossip, but we've heard about what rising star Julian Cope of the Teardrop Explodes does in the bath and we think it's reprehensible in the extreme. Julian, think of the risk of infection! To say nothing of the sensibilities of the poor hotel chambermaid who has to clear up after you...

**SO WHAT** about Friday night's Noo Yawk scenario at the Rainbow? Well suffice to say, the creme de la creme were supposed to have viewed were the equivalent of U2 / New Order / The Teardrop Explodes / The Sound / Killing Joke / Com Sat Angels but in fact wound up as just another soundtrack to the appalling cold. So bitter was it that the cheap lager froze in the glasses and punters were so obsessed by the mercury level that all thought of bands was swiftly abandoned. Nonetheless amongst those sighted were Joe Jackson and lady wife, Hugo 'n' Andy from the Gang Of Four, half of Ruts DC, ex-Police axeman Henri Padovani from the Flying Padovanis and mega-

# GARY GUTTER

**AND NOW...** the changing face of Gary Glitter, whose life story burlings in the DAILY STAR should be quelling his bankruptcy by now. So sad to hear the oldest singer in town pouring out his soul, a la: "The public will buy one or two records of a manufactured star. But do you think they would have taken all those hits I had over the years if they could not see there was some substance to it all?" (Yeah!)

We at DLN opt for the scathing, cruel and totally heartless - if it's too loud you're too old - overview, printing instead of our own gallery of portraits... L-R our Gal as trim, exuberant ballet-dancing nymph, our Gal as wine-swilling lemon during his transition, and our Gal as The Thing That Ate The Health Farm. The gross live shots were taken at The Venue 1'other week by someone who doesn't wish to be known (for obvious reasons).

manager himself, Sir Miles Copeland, in that as a result of some dustbins connection with 'headliners' The Flestones. Oh, how we shivered including soon-come star Tot Taylor presly to check that all exterior fly - posting for latest GTO single 'Girl With Everything' was in order.

**NOBODY, BUT** nobody (apart from a few CBS minions) turned up at The Marquee on equally freezing Sunday to see Spliff, notwithstanding rumours of the presence of a couple of ex-Beatles. The pre-punk German heavy rockers didn't do so bad, however, though rather than coming across like The Tubes, resembled a decidedly hippyisque Principal Edwards Magic Theatre.

**SEEN** in Trident Studios recording their fifth album in under three years this week are those happy fellas Magazine who have finally recruited

a new guitarist to their ranks. Answering to the name of Ben Mandelson, we are assured that he is a veteran of some years standing who has spent many years in the States. Incidentally, early backing tracks to the new songs sound characteristically skul - cracking, indicating the familiar progression in the Magazine sound we have all come to know and love grovel grovel.

**THOSE NICE** people at Riva seem to be heading into the property speculation business. Recently, they bought up Crackers Club in Soho's Wardour Street. The reason? Well, with a spot of renovation, they intend to reopen this once - famous grassroots venue as a gay outpost. Moreover, they are also trying to buy a piece of the action just down the road in the Marquee. Mind you, with a roster boasting a Scottish ex-

# OoooooooooKaaaaaaay!



**AND THE** Gods came down from Olympus to spread the word of 'De Condensed Milk'. The power of the pie, 'The beauty of the bucket', 'Compost Corner' (compost corner) 'Fian Your Folks', 'Competition Time', 'Spilt the Dog, Houdi Elbow man of mystery, Charlie the Monkey, The Phantom Fian Finger and the others of the merry crew, Chris Tarrant, Sally James, Bob Carolegges, Lenny Henry and John Gorman. Never before in the field of human conflict has so much been owed to so few. But this is what they want, particularly at the Venue on Sunday night when the bucket and the delightful composition called 'Far Canal' the meaning of which I am sworn not to tell (try saying the title fast). When your correspondent's notepad dries out we will bring you an up to date report on the situation. Trevor Macdoughnut, news at ten, Venue. 'It was really great, mon. De condensed milk was OoooooooooooooooooKaaaaaaayay!' (Speak English, Gardner - Ed).

**IS A NICE-A-PLACE... AH SHADDAP You FACE**

"Yes Mrs Jenkins, it is funny, even seventh time around..."



gravedigger and not much else is it any wonder that Riva see more of a future in clubland than in record releases?

**ARE SO-CALLED NWOBHM** 'supergroup' Lionheart planning to make an assault on the Guinness Book Of Records? This Thursday, they make their third live appearance at the Marquee, with (gasps) a third lead vocalist! Lucky person this time around is former Lautrec frontman **Reuben Archer**. It's enough to make **Rainbow** seem positively stable. Whilst on the subject of changes, rumour has it that well-known vegetarian and all-round introvert **Ted Nugent** has split with Epic Records and has a live European album due out on an obscure label in the near future.

CONGRATS GO TO **Dave Hill** of

**Slade**, who attains the honoured title of father, recently bestowed on comrade **Jimmy Lea**, by producing a bouncing baby of the male variety. The proud father, tottering on his platforms and wiggling his bum say that the lad, tentatively titled **Sammy**, is a "red haired punk."

**YOUNG JERRY Dammers** of the **Specials** is on his way to see the **Pyramids** and **Cairo** but no one has heard of the lad since somewhere in Central Europe but we've been told not to worry about this intrepid car journey especially since our hero can't drive.

**THE KORGIS**, (got to get the royal reference in somewhere!), went to Spain to do some promo work on a single but little did they know that Spain would have its bi-annual coup actually while they were hogging the airwaves on Radio Madrid. The

armed forces stormed the station and naturally decided that a new **Korgis** single isn't the most important of items to communicate during a revolution. The band didn't express their dissatisfaction with the situation as they were being held at gunpoint at the time. A good half an hour of valuable Sangria drinking time elapsed before the west country yokels were allowed to depart. The poor lads had to ring the motherland to find out what the hell had happened to the land of the peso and **Manuel**. The boys weren't heard singing 'Shaddup You Face' to the local military.

**YOUNG PHIL OAKLEY** of the **Human League** is obviously hoping to start 'League To Split' rumours along the lines of **Sting's Police** rumours by keeping very quiet about his offer of a role in a German film which should

keep him occupied while **Adrian** thumbs through his back copies of TV 21 and the girls get on with their studies.

**STOP THE press**. Stop the press. A mention in dispatches states that **U2** have made an impression in the American charts. We here by the Guinness tap are well chuffed by the fact that Yanks are not as devoid of culture as we thought...

**SCOTT GORHAM** of **Thin Lizzy** got secretly married in Los Angeles to his companion of a longtime, **Christine**, on January 2. Only the families and the band were invited and the couple took a cosy week of married bliss in Nassau, (in de Bahamas) where **Phil Lynott**, he who started this marriage epidemic, is recording another solo album.



**THIS, BELIEVE it or not, is the free tattoo which comes with the Stray Cats' debut album. We always thought a tattoo was big enough to cover your bicep.**

**MORE GOSSIP OVER PAGE**

A NEW EP FROM  
**motor headgirl school**  
**St. Valentines Day Massacre**

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# THE MOONDOGS

NEW SINGLE

# TALKING IN THE CANTEEN

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- 25 MARQUEE LONDON
- 26 LIMIT CLUB SHEFFIELD
- 27 EDGE HILL COLLEGE LIVERPOOL
- 28 GREAT LUMLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, BODDLE

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**TALKING IN THE CANTEEN**



**THIS LOVELY** young lass is girl about town Bebe Buell, who is now attracting the many rich and famous to her new position as lead singer of the B-sides. Pretty she is but she has one problem and her 'friends' won't tell her why she always creates such a strong reaction in the humanoids that pass her vicinity. We suggest that judging by her picture confrontation with Keef Richard and friend (below) she should use Colgate. Maybe whenever people said, "It's your deep breaths darling!" she thought they had a lisp. Pictures by: CHUCK PULIN.



**JUST WHAT** is going on with Fleetwood Mac? all is not hunky dory between the various members of the band all living somewhere close to paradise in Hawaii. Sources close to the band indicate problems with their management which is odd only in that **Mick Fleetwood**, founder and drummer, is the person who holds that title at the moment. The Warners executives are worried that a split might hinder their chances of getting a summer release on the forthcoming album which I suppose is logical.

**INTERESTING FACTS** reports that **Russ Ballard** has had one of his compositions in the American charts for the last two years apart from a gap of two weeks. We want to know which one! (Ho, Ho, this is the stuff ...)

**VIRGIN RECORDS** keep to their wonderful image of being slave drivers when they signed **Simple Minds**, as predicted in these pages last week, and took them to the

Townhouse studios to meet prospective producer **Steve Hillage**, who's working with **Ken Lockie** (ex-Cowboys International) solo album. But hardly had the ink dried than **Jim Kerr**, the **Minds** lead warbler, was asked to put his vocal presence on the recording. 'I Travel' has also entered the American disco charts, if you're interested.

**CALLING ALL** neanderthals ... Well, only the UK Subs faction actually, it seems they will be giving away 250 free posters, various free copies of past singles and a varied collection of badges to those who are not only foolish enough to attend their Lyceum bash but are also at the head of the queue. (Well, at least in the first 250). It's on Sunday. That's the day after Saturday.

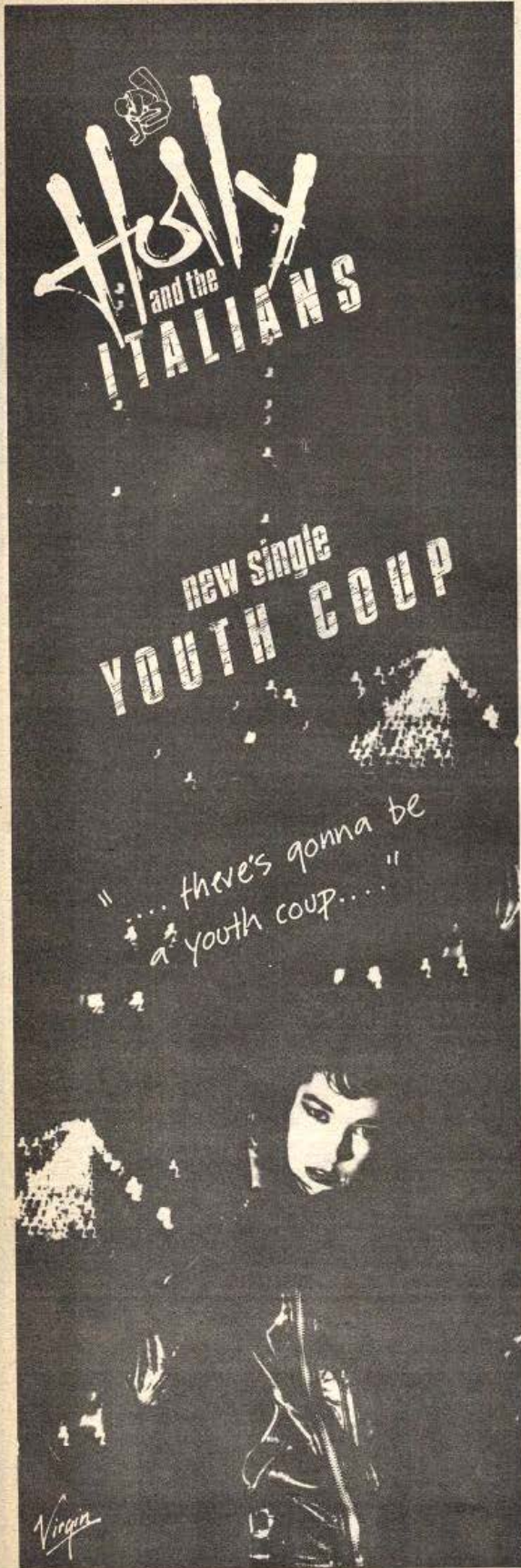
**FINALLY**, congrats to **Prince Charles** and **Lady Diana** on their engagement. I await my invite to the lig after the gig. Please put me on the guest list (plus one) thank you.



**POOR JOCK** MacDonald, a popular whipping post for the gossip columns and news pages of the world, has come a cropper with the Sun who lined him up with their Nazi expose last week. It seems that Jock's exploits as a recording entrepreneur specialising in football songs has led him to release a song by the Arsenal (boo hiss) which was described as having lyrics that are "nauseatingly anti-Jewish". The Scottish born Irish Catholic is more than upset at being labelled a Nazi particularly as our Tottenham correspondent claims that Spurs supporters actually revel in being called 'Yiddos' since a high proportion are Jewish and are frequently heard using it as a rallying cry. The unfortunate, in this case, Jock has since been offered out by various Spurs supporters to partake in physical activity of a violent nature. But he is about to continue with his records, a release by Tottenham supporters called 'Come On, You Spurs (Every Gunner is A Runner)' will be out on 12" soon and is destined to be a smash according to our Spurs correspondent (Shut Up And Get On With It Gardner - Ed). **Steve Perryman**, second front row, the Tottenham captain and **God Jinks MacDonald**, standing second on the left, with many Spurs players who regularly take part in Jock's many charity matches.







**S**UNDAY IS a funny day. All the rest of the week takes care of itself. Monday to Friday you go to work. Saturday is Tiswas, shopping or football and then hit the town but Sunday is sort of limboland.

It's a lie-in till lunchtime and then back to snoozing in front of the telly and a time of either regret or satisfaction with the week that's gone or an optimistic projection of the following week... or it's meeting Bad Manners at Heathrow on their way from Nice to Bristol to continue their British tour.

It's at Acton Town tube platform that the thought occurs to me that this is an absurd way to spend the day of rest. As I rush up the escalator at Heathrow arrivals section and run straight into the awesome bulk of Fatty Buster Bloodvessel, aka Doug Trendle, the thought gets even more entrenched.

We make friendly overtures while Ray the road manager takes sons of time getting the van together while Andrew Marson, the saxophonist is lumbered with the role of being the one who has to negotiate with the airline to get his luggage, which is winging its way across any one of the countless airlines above the globe, back into his possession.

We are soon off and the mood is decidedly lusher with moans along the lines of either forgotten duty-free booze or the thought of souring their memory of exotic San Remo by travelling straight to Bristol without letting the experience settle in with a day's break.

To a continuous soundtrack of Aladdin label classics, King Curtis and Elvis Costello, we make Bristol fairly quickly with only a stop at a service station for a stuffing of the usual mass produced gunk that you have to psyche yourself into believing it's good for you and copies of 'Bunty' and 'Victor' which are consumed with more passion than the 'sex, rape, orgy, probe, shock, horror' stories in the Sunday adult comics.

At a typically Mecca-nised Locarno Fatty wanders around in a massive crombie, green combat jumper and a pair of jeans that have seen many years of able service. The band sprawl around the strewn equipment in various poses of boredom while the eternally young looking Dolly Mixture, looking even shorter than I remember them huddle together, lighting cigarettes before going off to explore. As the tedious soundtrack is galvanised with a stirring version of 'Just A Feeling' the time for words with Mr Trendle draws near.

So how was Italy and San Remo? "Full of Italians," he laughs. "It was a festival, a bit like the Eurovision song contest. We were special guests along with Barry White, Dire Straits and Robert Palmer. We were the up and coming band. It was a live telly and we just

# SUNDAY MANNERS

MIKE GARDNER probes the secret life of Buster Bloodvessel

went on and did our bit and shocked the Italian nation. On the show, while the Pope was watching I revealed my... er... undergarments. All the record companies were talking about it."

What colour were they? "Blue... with stains. I haven't got any that aren't stained. You see personal hygiene is one of my biggest problems. I don't believe soap is any good for the body and water's terrible so I don't wash that often. But I have washed today because I heard I was meeting the press and I don't want you writing that 'I'm a fat smelly c--', " he smirks.

We start talking about touring and the phenomenal success of the past year.

"I'm surprised. It was a complete joke our band and that's as far as it was. We never had intentions of signing with record companies, we were playing in the pubs and all of a sudden people were offering us deals and frightening aspects of life like that."

So what started young Trendle singing?

"I started singing at school when this band invited me on stage as a special guest. It was a bit of a joke. I was a 'naughty boy' at school but I considered myself the best actor."

"I always relate things back to my childhood because that was where I done my best. I was the sort when everybody played war I owned the guns, so I could have whoever I wanted on my side. I was the one who owned the football and if I was losing that was it."

"I started singing on the way to the Stonehenge festival..."

Whaaaat!!!! "I wasn't much of a hippy but I used to go to these things, explains Mr Trendle trying to wipe over his tracks but the scent of true confessions and skeletons in the cupboard is too strong.

What sort of music were you listening to?

"... er... Van Morrison..."

er... what were the better ones," he mumbles. "Genesis... Peter Gabriel to me was a good geezer because he sang 'Battle Of Epping Forest'. I wasn't a heavy fan... I bunked into Hawkwind twice... I'm embarrassed now, I'm proud of going to Stonehenge because that's where I started singing the blues. Oh yeah, George Melly was another one."

Come on, the truth, I probe. "... Urish Heep," the words come out sheepishly and come out half strangled like the man is cutting his own throat.

"I was more of a long haired job. I used to bunk gigs and nick the hot dogs while the hippies would buy them," he tries vainly to justify his past life as a headbanger. "I was the best of the lads in North London at bunking into the Rainbow every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I can remember rushing the door and getting the whole theatre and Roxy Music to turn around and look at me steaming into the Rainbow."

Did any of this murky past find its way into the Bad Manners set of influences in the beginning?

"We used to play standards like 'Liquidator', 'Chain Gang', 'Riot In Cell Block No 9' and others in the pubs and we got lumbered with being a pub band. I don't know how you break out of that but you just sort of get better. We supported Madness and got a lot of stick as Madness copyists which was pretty depressing as the only similarity we had was the use of the off-beat. We didn't like being thought of as bandwagon jumpers when we'd been going longer than them. We appreciate them as they play good music and helped us on our way."

So will success change Buster Bloodvessel?

"If you are going to change then you change at the beginning because of the money or the press. To us it don't mean that much. We're not going to make that much money because there's so many of us. We're lucky we invested wisely in good, solid PA at good prices and an excellent van for virtually nothing. We used to shop at Sainsburys which is where we got it from. It makes you more sensible."

BAD MANNERS: "It's all right boys, I have washed today."



# THE BOYZ IZ BAK AGAIN



NODDY HOLDER: no surrender?

Picture by MIKE PUTLAND

**I**N CASE you didn't know Slade are on the up'n'up again. Their last of the big time was long and extremely sweet, six Number One singles, but once the hits stopped coming Slade were not prepared to fade into a

At last their gruelling touring battle has paid off. They recently sold out the Hammersmith Odeon and with 'We'll Bring The House Down' Slade have their first Top 30 hit in three and a half years.

'We're not a comeback band, we've always been here it's just that we've been unrecognised. We've been through everything, I just really enjoy what I'm doing.' Slade's likeable lead guitarist, Dave Hill tells me.

A swift train ride to Slade's home base Wolverhampton and Dave Hill is on time, waiting for me at the station. I politely break up his conversation with a local Led Zep. Sabbath, Slade fan and Dave drives me in his Jag to an ethnic scratching and steelworkers Black Country pub.

Apart from his feathered cowboy hat and high-heeled boots he blends smoothly into the Coronation Street surroundings. Dave is a down to

earth, professional interviewee who unwittingly shows off his polished expertise by answering my questions before I've even asked them.

'We wouldn't have kept writing songs if we didn't think that we were playing our oldies,' explains Dave. 'When the Beatles said "We're successful now what we've been playing for years, but it's only now we're playing now what's only now we're writing records." The same applies to us. We've stuck it out, we've waited what we believed in and we've waited for our boat to come in and we've got something at the end of it. If we were dying I'd say that's it but we haven't.'

Slade's boat started to come in at last year's Reading Festival. They were a last minute addition to the bill but were the success of the weekend.

Slade have always been first and foremost an upfront live band. During the last few years they've played anywhere that would have them and it's this solid touring which has kept the band together. Slade's new single is another turning point for them because it's managed to capture their unique stage magic on record, Dave explains. 'We wrote the song around the audience as we wanted to get something to sing along to. Nowadays no-one seems to be

bothered with giving the audience anything.'

The way the band captured their live atmosphere on record is a story Dave is keen to tell me about. 'Rather than having a carpeted studio sound we decided to record the drums in the bog and they sounded really big in there. So just for the hell of it we put all our gear in there as well. It gave us just the sound we wanted and we called it bog rock.'

Dave admits that the only ambition he has left is to have hit singles again — though he says 'hat the band still need the money. 'We've all had our Rolfs Royces' but in fact I'd much prefer a Ford Granada. We've got nothing to prove anymore. We've all stayed up Wolverhampton 'cos we feel more comfortable living here. We found we couldn't fit in with the nightclub scene in London because we always felt we were being ripped off in those trendy places. Only Don lives in London and that's 'cos he's still a bachelor and he reckons the talent's better down there.'

Slade are a remarkable band. Though they've reached the heights and then hit rock bottom their honest approach never seems to have wavered. Their determined attitude has at last won them the respect of the press and the gig — going public. PHILIP HALL

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# SINGLES

Reviewed by PHILIP HALL

## LYRICS OF THE WEEK

**THE SPIZZLES: 'Risk' (A&M).** Anyone who's ever played 'Risk' (reg trade mark) will instantly fall in love with this single. The lyrics are Spizz's greatest stroke of genius since 'Where's Captain Kirk'. Musically 'Risk' consists of an underplayed melody with the lyrics taking total control of the proceedings. The quirky rhythm changes make this single as addictive as the game it is sending up. Buy 'Risk' — the game first, then the single, and listen out for the wonderfully catastrophic climax.

## THOSE I HAVE LOVED

**ELVIS COSTELLO: 'From A Whisper To A Scream' (F Beat).** Not to be confused with the indispensable country jukebox classic 'From A Jack To A King'. This is ol' four eyes' most commercial effort in ages. Of late Elvis seems to have fallen into a serious musician's rut as the soulful Costello sound has crushed all the subtlety out of his underestimated melodies. Perhaps it's the inclusion of Glenn Tilbrook, the soft voiced Squeeze vocalist, which makes this single such a tuneful delight?

**THE WHO: 'You Better You Bet' (Polydor).** I seem to be one of the rare birds who actually enjoyed seeing the Who live, and hearing their new songs. Perhaps it was because I wasn't expecting too much. 'You Better You Bet' was definitely the catchiest new song that the 'Oo' thrashed out. In fact I reckon it contains one of the catchiest choruses Townshend's written in years, with the call and answer harmonies a real masterstroke. As usual the single's main drawback lies in Townshend's blatantly deliberate approach to songwriting. Why do all Who songs seem to slow down for Daltrey's overdramatic vocals and then speed up into the face-saving chorus?

**MICKEY JUPP: 'Don't Talk To Me' (Good Feet Records).** Sarfend's answer to Chuck Berry. Britain's most consistent and prolific songwriter. The country's finest r'n'b singer. Mickey Jupp is the real thing — the master. This single is yet another lesson in how to make quietly stunning roots music. If there's any justice left in rock music (I doubt it, unfortunately) Mickey Jupp will become a popular legend. He's just too good to be ignored for ever.

**LENE LOVICH: 'New Toy' (Stiff).** Some of my happiest moments have been spent at the front of Lene Lovich's concerts. She might have been quiet lately but this single is the one to shove her right back into the flickle limelight. 'New Toy' is a successful step forward, slower, more involved and not just relying on Lene's remarkable vocals for instant effect.

**MERGER: 'Prisoner Of Your Love' (Emergency Records).** Merger hold a special place in my musical memory. They are the only band I've ever fallen asleep to — it happened at the Nashville after too many ESB's. But 'Prisoner Of Your Love' is a stage favourite which I stayed awake for. Its perky stop-start rhythms transfer well onto 12 inch vinyl — creating a mellow twilight atmosphere.

**STEELY DAN: 'Babylon Sisters' (MCA).** You can't knock Steely Dan because they stand out in their own private musical field. It's not the content of their songs that's so appealing, but the unique atmosphere they create. 'Babylon Sisters' could easily have come straight off 'The Royal Scam'. A flawless Steely Dan song with no surprises, apart from the silky backing vocals.

**THE VIP'S: 'Things Aren't What They Used To Be' (Gem).** Don't think you're gonna be allowed to ignore this one, a cracker of a popping pop song from a band that have been kept down for far too



**SPIZZLES: Young Spizz takes no risks. "Beer cans can't hurt me," he sneers.**

long. 'Things Aren't What They Used To Be' was always going to be the one that broke The VIP's. Direct and infectious with a chorus that will go straight to the hearts of all lovers of tunes, rather than images. If The Look can do it...

## CATCH THEM QUICK

**URGE: 'Bobby' (Consumer Disk).** The sweet vocal chords of Lynda Wulf add a sugary flavour to this sweet'n'sour bubblegum ditty. 'Bobby' combines the style of the Shangri-Las with the warmth of Rezillos; probably the purest pop records I've heard this year.

**THE DUMMIES: 'Maybe Tonite' (Cheapskate).** No dummies here, just Slade's Jim Lea working under an awful pseudonym, though he certainly needn't be embarrassed by this single. Written by the legendary Lea and Holder, the single follows the same sort of path that the Motors had so much success with. Like a heavier 'Forget About You', 'Maybe Tonite' is a highly enjoyable slab of lavish pop music. It certainly makes a pleasant change from the blasting heavy metal Slade are currently turning out.

**SHONA LAING: 'Overboard' (EMI).** There's an exceptionally strong song floating around here but the pussyfooting production doesn't really bring the best out of it. Still, we've got to make do with what we've got — a persistent mor single which could well lead Shona on to greater things.

**THE VINCENT UNITS: 'Carnival Song' (Y Records).** Connections with The Pop Group aside, this single cheered me up no end. Sounding like a psychedelic Madness, with an uplifting sense of rhythm, The Units deserve to make ground with 'Carnival Song', while the B-side — an out of tune version of the Martini advert — made me smile and forget all the other smug singles lying around me.

**PHIL COLLINS: 'I Missed Again' (Virgin).** One to kick all you Genesis fans right up the arse. 'In The Air Tonight' was a fine single but it was still pretty much in the safe Genesis mould. 'I Missed Again' is an out and out pop-funk record with lashings of commercial appeal. Collins' voice flits up and down over a horn-infested backing track. A quality single, but if you Genesis fans right up the arse. 'In The Air' buy singles by Michael Jackson, Earth Wind and Fire, et al?

**AERIEL FX: 'So Hard' (Square Records).** I must be too soft. There just seems to be so many singles / I've fallen for this week. Here's another. 'So Hard' is full of giggling rhythms which weave in and out to make up an immaculate three minute single.

**LEE KOSMIN: 'Getting So Exciting' (EMI).** Stylish mainstream music. Kosmin seems to have been around for ages but at least he's picked up on a lot of classy modern influences. Here he turns out soulful white pop music in the vein of Joe Jackson and Graham Parker.

**MUSIC FOR PLEASURE: 'Fuel To The Fire' (Rage Records).** This must be a contender. 'Fuel To The Fire' has an innocent wide open melody which will seduce your attention. The song is held together by a polite keyboard line which gives the song a magic push; making it this week's perfect example of an eighties pop song.

**THE DB'S: 'Big Brown Eyes' (Albion).** They could only be American, and that's a compliment for a change. The db's dish out layers of well-textured American beat music. 3D pop with naive high school vocals, modern mop-top harmonies, and a frothy "geetar" backdrop.

## TAKE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM — THE CHOICE IS YOURS

**MODERN MAN: 'Things Could Be Better' (MAM).** Modern Man are gonna have a lot of problems. 'Things Could Be Better' is a nifty tune with an embarrassing identity crisis; the Skids comparisons are overwhelming and ultimately damaging. No way can we put up with more than one Richard Jobson!

**THE STIFFS: 'Goodbye My Love' (Stiff).** A straightforward version of the Glitter Band classic. It's still a great party song but The Stiffs don't add anything to the punchy original.

**THE DONKEYS: 'Don't Go' (MCA).** Another tailor-made for airplay single by the enigmatic Donkeys. 'Don't Go' has enough bite to make

it catchy but not memorable. At times it reminds me of a watered down Chords, God bless 'em.

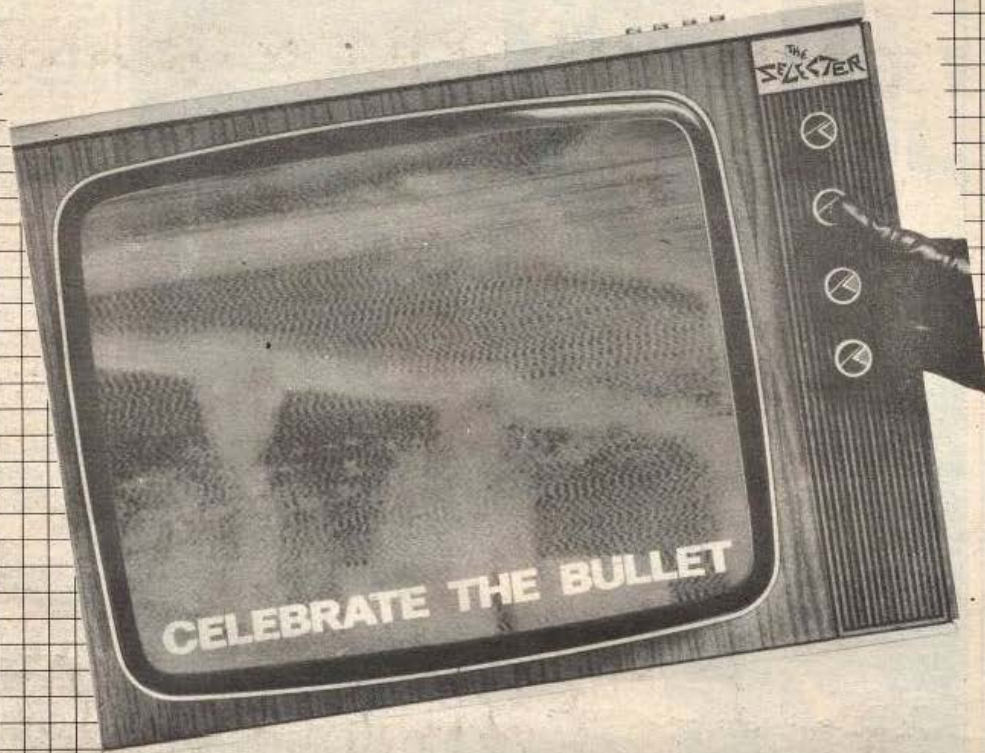
**YOKO ONO: 'Walking On Thin Ice' (For John (Geffen Records)).** This single will sell, if only on the strength of the tribute that Yoko has written on the cover. Yoko was always more of an inspiration to John than a musically inspiring figure in her own right. (Phew! - Ed). The self-penned 'Thin Ice' is a drawn out disco number which lacks a strong funky rhythm. The B-side is another Yoko song. 'It Happened', dating back to 1973. It contains a spoken intro with John and Yoko joking around but the song itself doesn't have any outstanding musical merits.

**NIGHTDOCTOR: 'Just Enough' (Race Records).** One of Britain's best live "white reggae" bands so I'm informed, though for this restrained single they sound very ordinary. Brad of the Specials produced 'Just Enough' but his special energy doesn't seem to have rubbed off on the under-weather Nightdoctor (groan).

**A CERTAIN RATIO: 'Do The Du' (Factory).** A name to impress your elitist musical friends with. A Certain Ratio don't impress me. They play intellectual funk / dance music for co-operative musicians. Who needs a downmarket Weather Report?

**DEPECHE MODE: 'Dreaming Of Me' (Mute Records).** Floppy fringe music. 'Dreaming Of Me' is a predictable and well crafted as any Ultravox song. Drum machine, humanoid vocals, synthesised hand claps — don'tcha just love these soppy new romantics?

**THE SELECTER.**



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# THE HOLE-IN-THE-HEAD GANG



**KELLY FARAH FAWCETT JOHNSON:** The sweet talker of the line up but she still keeps a .38 Magnum in her stockings. Try and fake a peek and she'll blast your head off. Don't let those big eyes fool you, underneath she's all mean. She once shot 10 cops one after the other. They ended up with more holes in their bodies than a secondhand dartboard.



**LEMMY 'THE SPOT' KILMINSTER:** Public Enemy Number One and a man with uncontrollable violent urges. Notice how close together his eyes are. This hood has been known to kill with his bare hands and must be approached with caution at all times. It's best to offer him a Jelly Baby if you want him to come quietly.



**KIM 'COBRA' MCAULIFFE:** Her life in crime started by extorting the pocket money out of the kids she used to babysit for. She may look innocent but her shoes contain deadly spring action tick knives. Make her angry and she'll strike faster than a snake on amphetamines.



**PHIL 'FILTHY ANIMAL' TAYLOR:** Recently broke his neck in a drunken brawl but he's now back in action. Roams over the Lower East Side and also controls the mob up State. That cinder suit means that his pies are playing up or he's ready to fall you. Don't wait to find out, run for your life and don't look back.



**ENID 'THE KID' WILLIAMS:** A convent schoolgirl and frames man until she met up with the others and was forced into bad habits. She's very kind to animals and always says a prayer before killing anyone.



**EDDIE 'SPATS' CLARKE:** Nice guy really, apart from an uncontrollable urge to shove his militia on your chest with a penknife. A quiet sort of psychopath who has a heart of gold. He was the hood who spent most time by Filthy Phil's bed, waiting for him to recover.



**DENISE 'DOLL FACE' DUFORT:** Extortion and confidence tricks a specialty. The quiet one of the line up but with a brain like a calculating machine. She took over running the East Side when Phil was ill.

## CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Established 1881

### St. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE

By crime reporter ROBIN SMITH

ON THE waterfront, February 13, 1981, Police in our fair city are worried about an escalation in gang warfare. Sources close to the underworld have revealed that big time racketeers Motorhead and Girlschool are joining up to form 'The Hole In The Head Gang' perpetrating crimes against the physical and moral well being of young people by playing loud music at dangerously high levels. Hot off the wire as it hap-

pened, the Tribune now brings you the exclusive story of the first meeting between these two rival sets of malevolent mobsters. As dawn broke across a thundersky today, four limos sped across town to a secret destination in a run down area of the docks. They ferried four vixens better known as Girlschool to rendezvous with Motorhead and an offer they couldn't refuse — the chance of appearing on a mega hit single and fame at last. Inside a dingy warehouse I sat nervously with 'Spats' Clarke 'Filthy Animal' Taylor and 'The Spot'



"I don't like it boss, I don't like it at all," whimpered Spats. "Never trust dames, especially them sort of dames. They'll wipe us out for sure." "Relax, stoppid relax," said 'Filthy Animal', blowing a halo of smoke from a freshly lighted cigar. "Look it'll be the ultimate team up. A chance to take on those dumb futurists and wipe 'em right out of the charts."

"That's right," growled the Spot, looking up through hungover bloodshot eyes. "Pull up a chair, sit down and relax. We made those broads a pretty fair deal. Half shares in the royalties and maybe even an appearance on 'T'waves. That ain't something they're gonna turn down in a hurry."



"Don't call me Spot you Goddamn bitch," he muttered before a coughing spasm racked his entire body. "Boy you guys sure do need us." "How'd ya ever expect to take over the charts with an old man like him. He sounds like a bullfrog with a cold."

"But somebody will have to stand in for the Animal on drums. The kid broke his neck and won't be able to raise the sticks." "We wuz celebrating," explained the Animal. "I was on some guys shoulders and they drops me. They took me to hospital but they didn't have an expert doctor in the place, they said I might never be able to walk again. Then the following day they said I'd be okay only I have to wear this collar round my neck. Every time I want to look round I look like a Penguin 'cos I can't move my neck. I can still t-t, but drumming is out."



"I got a lot of respect for you girls, you know that? You're all good musicians. Girl mobs



"Spare us the hearts and flowers," said Spats, "and let's get down to business. I reckon the whole thing should take a week to put down. But I don't want no fancy studio I want to get it all down as quickly as possible. Hell, I know this guy called Vic Mallie. He usual-

ly runs bootlegs, we'll use him as producer." "Okay, you're on blue eyes," said Kelly giving an all too brief glimpse of milk white legs and black stocking top as she slid off a table. "Let's go an play some pool and celebrate." Together they strolled off

into the morning glare, gangsters of music who play the ace card every time with the whole city under wraps.







# MAILMAN

Write to: MAILMAN, 40 LONG ACRE, LONDON WC2



Oh you flatterer, you!

## EDE OF EASTON

SO YOUR crowd are at it again! Why don't you own up to the truth and admit to yourselves that Sheena (Easton, presumably — MM) is really the most talented female you've ever heard. I read your paper every week, and as yet have not found a single article, or even a tiny paragraph, giving her any encouragement whatsoever. Perhaps there's a hint of jealousy among you?

CB, Glasgow.

•Encouragement? Who needs encouragement when you've got EMI, as Malcolm McLaren might say. But just to show that we're not all jealous, let me say that I hope Sheena does very well in her new career ... as a housewife — Mailman.

### INSULTING

I HAVE been buying your paper for the last two years and, on the few occasions when I actually read it, have been shocked and horrified by the way the material is presented. For instance, your record reviews contain INSULTING and DEGRADING remarks about the artists, and are almost always sexist and extremely biased. The gig reviews are full of cheap sarcasm, ambiguity and, often, downright OBSCENITY.

I feel, therefore, that you ought to be congratulated, I know that of all the music papers I can always rely on Record Mirror for a good, cheap, low-down, sexist and horrific article. But don't get too complacent; over the last few weeks you seem to have been easing up a little.

Where are all the scandals, the rip-offs, the SHOCK! HORROR!! headlines, the Kate Bush / Debbie Harry / Wendy O' Williams pin-ups, all the smut and low life we've come to know and love? Frankly if you don't get your finger out pronto I may go back to the Daily Star. At least they don't have big words and huge opening paragraphs.

Dougie Nisbet, Edinburgh, Scotland.

•Methinks you've been spoilt sunshine, but you have our word that the normal vile service will be resumed as soon as possible. Coming soon; the nudest XTC! Lemmy without his trousers!!

•Tiswas' Sally James topless!!! PLUS ... the sexy secrets of 'Top Of The Pops'. Only in Record Mirror! — Mailman

### PLEAS, PLEASE — ME

SO YOU think living in Portsmouth is hell? What about me? What about me? Living in a village that isn't even Southampton or Portsmouth is about as exciting as sitting in the front row of a Sheena Easton concert. I bet you didn't know that we're so desperate that we actually resort to watching 'TOTP' on Thursday in the vain hope that it might bring some excitement into our dull lives.

Jayne, Warsash (halfway between Portsmouth and Southampton).

•If anyone writes from somewhere equally dismal, like Grantham, Basingstoke, Keighley, Alness, Caerphilly or Cheltenham we'll try and put you in touch and you can suffer together. At least you're nearer the Continent than anyone else, but I didn't realise that you were able to get TV reception down there as well — Mailman.

## CHARTS CHANGE

### WHERE'S MY CHART?

OK, RECORD Mirror, you think you're the tops for charts, and you may well be right, but can't we have a mol more variety? I'm hooked on the charts, and I'm sure lots of others are too, but there are some of them that are the same nearly every week (like the Video chart, which hardly ever changes). Why can't you have different charts, even if it wasn't every week? I live in the north of Scotland and I'm sure the records that are bought up here aren't the same as in London (you lucky sods), and as for the so-called 'Futurist' charts — we've never even seen the records never mind the groups involved. Heien Derry Dingwell, Easter Ross, Scotland.

•OK, RECORD Mirror readers, here's your chance. What different types of charts would you like to see? In future issues we'd like to print a reader's choice of chart each week, so send us your suggestions and we'll see what we can do. Write to: 'Readers Charts', Mailman, RECORD MIRROR, 40 Long Acre, London, WC2. Postcards only, please, and we'll pay £5 for every suggestion used.

# NIPS SPIN SNIP PLASTICS



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### NO QUO

IN MY Local record shop I bought Status Quo's 'Just Supposin'' for £4.99, and the sleeve didn't even list the names of the band. I know that liner notes are something of a rarity these days, but this is going just a bit too far. It's a pity that we can't get more information with the record, and this must be a message to the record companies. They're asking us to shell out a fiver from our hard-earned cash, and not giving us much in return. Please try harder!

Mark Radford, London.

•What and get records covered with gushing sleeve notes telling how good Wiffley Smog And The Replays new platter is? Come on! You'd never buy the bugger. Double your brain power by reading a book when you're playing the record, and if you still don't know who's in Quo it's er, Alan Lancaster, the one with the waistcoat, a blonde bloke on rhythm guitar and that drummer who collects old cars, etc. Cozy, no, John Coghlan — Mailman

### PLEAS, PLEASE — 1

COME ON, play the game! ABBA were third in your top group poll, their LP was 1980's best seller, and you haven't had an interview with them for ages. If they warrant a mention in half the sections of your poll surely you can tell us what they're up to.

J. Hamilton (no relation), Swindon.

•Here we go. Abba are in Sweden, aren't making an album in the near future and the red-haired one has just split up with the bearded one. I think I read that in Record Mirror last week but I can't be sure — Mailman.

### SOUL I WANT

ALL I want is Northern Soul! Please print this, the future of Northern Soul depends on it!!

Steve, The Pride Of Humber-side.

•Yeah, but wasn't that what all you blokes "oop north" in big trousers were saying round about 1973? We'll see what we can do, promise (and if you can let us know what happened to Bob Wilson Sounds I'd love to know) — Mailman.



Compiled by SUSANNE GARRETT and COLLETTE IVE

The information here is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change. Please check with the venue concerned.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

- ASHTON UNDER LYME, Spread Eagle, (061-330 375), Acoustic
BIRMINGHAM, Golden Eagle, (021-643 5403), Babylon Rebels 71 Guns
BRISTOL, The Bonkey, Nash The Slash

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

- ABERDEEN, University (572751), Dr Feelgood
BINGLEY, Arts Centre, The Shakes / Pyramid / Patricia Moore And The All Stars
BIRMINGHAM, Aston University (021-359 6531), Duran Duran

MAIN ATTRACTION this week is ELVIS COSTELLO, who tours in Britain throughout March, following the release of a new album, 'Trust'.

The STRAY CATS begin their first major tour on Friday at Southampton University, on Sunday Bristol Locarno, Swansea Top Rank Monday, Cardiff Top Rank on Tuesday and Brighton Top Rank on Wednesday.

One of the few chances to see GILLAN this week, when their 5-date tour kicks off at Bournemouth Winter Gardens (Monday), Blackburn King George's Hall (Tuesday), and Nottingham Rock City (Wednesday).

- LONDON, Hope And Anchor, Islington (01 359 4510), The Lemons
LONDON, Marquee, Wardour Street (01 437 6603), The dB's
LONDON, Moonlight, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead (01 624 7611), Gollinski Brothers

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

- BIRMINGHAM, Mercat Cross (021 622 3281), Chainaw
BIRMINGHAM, University (021 472 1841), Julie Tussie
BOURNEMOUTH, Winter Gardens (28448), Camel

MONDAY MARCH 2

- BIRMINGHAM, Odeon (021 643 6101), Krokus / More
BLACKBURN, King George's Hall (58424), Siouxsie And The Banshees
BOURNEMOUTH, Winter Gardens (28448), Gillan

TUESDAY MARCH 3

- BLACKBURN, King George's Hall (58424), Gillan
BRISTOL, Colston Hall (291768), Elvis Costello And The Attractions
BRISTOL, Granary (26772), The Thompson Twins

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

- BELLSHILL, Iron Maiden, (748381), The Cheaters
BIRMINGHAM, Odeon, (021-643 6101), Elvis Costello And The Attractions
BLACKBURN, King George's Hall, (58424), Franki Valli And The Four Seasons

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