

SMASH HITS

WHAT YOU THINK OF
BOB GELDOF...

JOHN TAYLOR...

...WHAM!, MADONNA, ADRIAN MOLE,
A-HA, SAMANTHA FOX, TEARS FOR FEARS...

...AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE IN

THE 1985 READERS' POLL

PLUS PET SHOP BOYS, U2, BRONSKI BEAT, LEVEL 42 AND MANY MORE



12-13 PET SHOP BOYS

One of them knows *rather* a lot about Swedish rubber, and the other one used to pretend he was Tchaikovsky.



52-54 REVIEW

Videos by Wham!, Style Council, Tears For Fears and King. Plus *The Goonies* and lots of films about rabbits

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C O N T E N T S

THE 1985 READERS' POLL

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U2

So you saved up for months for a ticket to a Thompson Twins concert, and then what? Disaster! The whole ruddy thing's called off because the tour promoter has fallen into a liquidiser! (Don't you mean "gone into liquidation"? — Ed) And you're left without a refund, feeling a bit chassed off . . .

Well, The Twins feel pretty bad about all this, and so they've decided to make it up by giving away copies of a live album (to be recorded on their US tour) to avaryona who got "dons". You'll never find them in any shop in the whole world, and with the personally autographed saaves (!!!) these records are going to be a bit special — well, absolutely blooming "pricelass", really. All you have to do is send your usalass ticket or proof of purchasa to Thompson Twins Tickets, PO Box 468, London SW10 9QW, by January 31. And if you really want, you can send an SAE and get your money back instead.

So-called "godfathers of punk" The Clash have, for about the zillionth time in their career, "split". No need to get out the black armbands though — all that's happened is that the three blokes no-one had ever heard of who joined the group nine months ago have left again (apparently they got fed up of not touring or something). Still, the two remaining founder members Joe Strummer and Paul Simonon don't seem too upset; they're currently "in the studio" recording the next Clash single, "Shouting Street".

Spandau Ballet, that popular light orchestral combo, are currently involved in "heavy litigation" with their record company Chrysalis, which means they've been spending rather a lot of time in court arguing with snoozy old judges in funny wigs.

It's a per-ruffy ruddy confusing case, actually. The Spands are claiming that there's been a "complete breakdown in the working relationship" between them and Chrysalis, and say that their so-called "new" album "The Singles Collection" has been released against their wishes. They refused permission for it to be advertised on TV. Chrysalis ignored them, the Spands took out an injunction, Chrysalis broke the injunction and showed the ad anyway, an almighty legal hoo-ha broke out and everyone ended up back in court. Told you it was confusing.

Anyway, Spandau lost that round, but now they've won the right to take the whole case to trial before jury, and the court proceedings are "sub judice" (i.e. anybody who writes about it gets slapped in jail pretty smartish) so we can't tell you the story about the judge who thought videos were like the "overtures" you get on Radio 3, or the one about . . . whoops — scarper, mates! The bobbies have rumbled us! . . .

B R O N S I



"I've listened to The Communards and I think it's just a load of self-indulgent CRAP!"

Only a few minutes earlier Steve Bronski had seemed like such a pleasant bloke, shy and quiet, the sort of chap who wouldn't say boo to a goose. But all of a sudden he's launched into this attack on Bronski Beat's old singer Jimmy Somerville.

"That record of theirs is just Jimmy's voice. I'm glad we've not like that any more."

Larry Steinbachek — the other original member of Bronski Beat — joins in: "I haven't heard the record," he says. "I'm too busy writing songs to pay attention to people I don't want to listen to." All this is part of a slanging match that's been going on for the last few weeks. Steve and Larry are just a bit piqued about Jimmy's public criticism of Bronski Beat and they want to make sure they get their own back.

Jimmy's departure from the group was a bitter one. For months before he left to form The Communards he'd been refusing to do interviews and going missing whenever Bronski Beat were supposed to be turning up for TV shows.

"Steve and I knew Jimmy's commitment to the band — or lack of commitment — so it was no surprise when he left," says Larry. "But it was frustrating because there were a lot of things that we simply couldn't do. He said 'I'm not doing this, I'm not doing that' and because we tried to be a democracy and not force anybody to do things they didn't want to do, we had to go along with that."

Jimmy's replacement is John Foster, an old friend of Larry's. He says it was a frustrating time for him too, because he was itching to join the group: "There I was, standing in the wings saying 'Hello!' But it was quite funny actually, because they were doing the Wogen show and I just went along to rehearsals — this was about the time of 'I Feel Love' with Marc Almond — and Jimmy just didn't show up, so I got up there and mimed for the cameras. I was standing there impersonating Jimmy doing all this business (waves arms around madly) and Jimmy walked in and creased up with laughter."

Larry and Steve aren't talking to Jimmy these days — they have no desire to and they never bump into him anyway. "His social life runs in somewhat higher circles than ours," says Larry archly.

So aren't Bronski Beat wild night-clubbing socialites, then?

Photo: Dennis O'Hagan/Visuals





Photo: Paul Hester

"Of course not!" answers Larry indignantly. "Do we look like wild socialites? Do you see us in the gossip pages of *The Sun*? No... not at all."

Which is a bit of a whopper actually, because John is a bit of a one for the late nights on the town. Just to prove it he's got a thumping great bruise on his cheek from where he fell down the stairs of London's very pricey Hippodrome club. "Cue coffee too many," explains Steve.

"Personally," announces Larry, "I don't like going to clubs. I think they're full of vacuous people, and I don't want to turn into a vacuous person."

"Oh, I love clubs," blurts John. But that must mean you're a vacuous person. "Vacuous?" splutters Larry. "He's like a big black hole in the middle of the universe."

Larry and John share a flat together in London, but the two of them go back as far as their teenage years in Southend "spending time down the pub, finding out about life and having a rip-roaring time."

"It was all bondage and hair dye," says John, who spent two years at catering college ("I used to love making sweets and cakes") before going on the dole, singing in various obscure groups and finally auditioning for Bronski Beat. Didn't he think it was a bit of a damned cheek auditioning for a place in his old friend's group?

"Not really, because it was fun. I went into the studio and as soon as I was there I started writing three songs. Straight away they said 'you're in. You've got the job. John Foster come on down!'"

What were the other singers who auditioned like?

"Well," says Steve, "there was Marc Almond, Sylvester..."

...and that Holly Johnson. He came along but we couldn't offer him the position... We'd we could, but I wasn't go into that. George Michael popped his head round the door," sibs Larry.

"John is the singer we were looking for," Larry continues in more serious vein. "We were ultimately looking for personality more than talent. I think how you relate to people is more important than if you've got the best voice in the world, because you have to get on as three people. Now we're working as a trio, which is fabulous."

"It's like a team. Actually," he declares, "we're thinking of all living together, like in a commune." A broad grin settles on Steve's face. "And then we can all be Commu-nards," he snickers.

The single "My Guy, My Girl" might sound familiar even if you don't recognise the two Motown "classics" that have been craftily mixed into one. That's because the two "songsters" responsible are Amii "Knock On Wood" Stewart and Deon "I Warbled with George Michael on 'I'm Your Man'" Estus.

It's about time Deon was a very famous person; he's worked "behind the scenes" with so many bands that it all starts to get a bit confusing:

"There's so many, I can't really remember. I worked on Elton John's album - he's incredibly nice - and, um... Blancmange. That was good! Which song? Oh... I can't remember exactly."

But he's best known for being the bass player with Wham! "I love working and touring with Wham! but I'd like to have a number one of my own," says Deon. "I want a solo career, but with careful timing I can do both."

It does mean that things are a bit hectic - even though his solo album is only half finished he might have to nip over the States any day now with George and Andrew. Not that he'd mind too much: "I could get to my hairdresser," he laughs, pulling at a gold-beaded plait. "They are the only ones that can do this and they're in California." Well, you learn something every day, don't you?



WIN A CROW!

Howdy, bird-splitters! Baw you thought I was Crow, that howling feathered Scouse lunk of Saturday Superstore. Well, fooled you meleys, because actually I'm a grove puppel of the aforesaid birdy, and far superior in all respects.

Why, you can

● PUNCH me on the Christmas tree and - hey presto! - a handy festive decoration, sure to draw gasps of adremtion from young and old alike

● SLAP me onto your arm for a unique snug 'n cosy 'thermal' mitt that's the height of fashion all year round (one size fits all)

● PLAY my super new "Geronimo" single - guaranteed to clear a room full of unwanled party 'revelers' in seconds!

More entertaining than watching poky old blue tits splashing around in the bird bath, eh nest mates? So, if you want to win me just answer these: which of these items won't blue tits eat? Is it e) bacon nnd b) breadcumbz c) nuts d) bolts e) a tractor?

Answers on the back of a bird table to **Smash Hits Weedy Blue Tit Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1Y 1PF**, to get here by December 31. First five correct answers out of my nest win me or one of my mates (And no cribbing from The Observer Book Of What Blue Tits Don't Eat, ether)



"Bootleg" tapes of the Live Aid Concert are rapping the charts all over Asia and the Middle East, and not ow rupiah (the currency of Indonesia) of the profits is going to the famine victims. Worraripoff! Well over a million of these illegally recorded and manufactured cassettes have found their way to remote parts, some of them actually wrapped in an exact copy of the *Smash Hits Live Aid* report! Worrarnerve!! And it's not the first time these pirates have cashed in. Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" was bootlegged in Singapore, while fake copies of USA For Africa's single found their way to hundreds of places like Turkey, Taiwan, Malaysia and Portugal. Horrible thing to think that some satyr cynical little organisation is getting all that money which could be saving thousands of lives.



**BRYAN FERRY
SINGLES,
VIDEOS +
SWEATSHIRTS
TO BE WON!**



Bitz ever gets its hands on the blithering idiot who invented competitions, he'll get a cover dressing down, we can tell you. Come to think of it, competitions were invented years ago, so he's probably dead by now – and saves him jolly well right! We mean to say, it's a bit much when, just before Christmas, Bitz is told to give away – to readers! – all its Bryan Ferry singles and videos and sweatshirts. We were saving them as a present for our dreadful posh cousin Anthea, actually; she thinks Bryan is "sooooo so-so; dehhing." Anthea and Colin (her boring husband with the pipe) are coming to our place for Christmas, worst luck, and what the cracker are we going to find to give the terrible trout now?

Oh, well, enough of our problems. Have the ruddy things! Five 12" copies of B. Ferry's "Windswept" single, five Bryan Ferry sweatshirts and five video compilations of his greatest hits. That's the swag – here's the question:

Bryan Ferry once recorded the song "Jealous Guy" with Roxy Music. Who wrote the song? Was it a) John Lennon b) John Parr c) John Denver or d) Anthea and Colin?

Answers on a present to Smash Hits Happy Christmas Cousins Antea Competition, 52-55 Cernaby Street, London W1V 1PF, by December 31.



Annie Lennox is having one of her funny turns by the look of things. But don't fret, it's all in aid of the film *Revolution*, an epic about the American War Of Independence which also stars **Al Pacino** (*Scarface*, *Godfather* . . .), **Donald Sutherland** (*MASH*, last Kate Bush video), and possibly the most attractive female-type person in the entire cosmos **Nastassia Kinski** (yeah, even nicer than John Taylor, so there!). Directed by Hugh Hudson (*Chariots Of Fire*, *Greystoke* . . .), it "opens" in London on 31 January and will go everywhere else at the end of February.

Also coming soon to a cinema "near you" are **Prince's** *Under The Cherry Moon* which will be out next summer – he's still filming it in Nice (that's France, not a biscuit, mate!) – and the most yawned-about music film of this or any other year, *Absolute Beginners*. That stars **Patsy** "I'm in a group called Eighth



Patsy Kensit in *Absolute Beginners*

Wonder and I like frozen peas and very short dresses" **Kensit** and **Sade** and this bloke called **David Bowie** who, incidentally, has recorded the title track which will come out as a single late January. The film follows in April.



Want to know some interesting things about the two blokes above? (Not especially – Ed) Tough, *Tom Ritz* is going to tell you anyway

● They're called **Eyeless In Gaza**.

● The bloke on the left, **Martyn Bates**, used to be in a band called *The Reluctant Stereotypes* and when he left was replaced by someone with a very dodgy haircut and appalling taste in footwear i.e. **Paul King**

● The bloke on the right, **Peter Becker**, has never been in a band with Paul King (at, when *Eyeless In Gaza* once

"supported" the now-forgotten Reluctant Stereotypes, both bands were "mixed" (i.e. had their "live sound" fiddled about) by an old hippie called **Tom Bailey**

● They've just released a single called "Welcome Now"

● The bloke with the hat on once spent a weekend in . . . (That's quite enough about *Eyeless In Gaza* – Ed)

C H R

It must be a right old doddle being a pop star, mustn't it? Take the so-called "festive" season, for instance. When your mum rings up and says "now, you are coming home for Christmas, aren't you dear?" all you have to do is make up some excuse about having to go to the Bahamas to make a charity record with Bono and – heehee! you're free! And while the rest of us are suffering all the usual indignities – I.N. The Kranks, Uncle Desmond being sick, and your dad being embarrassing etc – you're tucked up in bed with a good hunk. If you've any sense, that is. But we're being asking lots of the famous pop stars about their most memorable Christmas and some of them actually seem to enjoy it. . .



Curt Smith

"Three years ago I got married on the 18th December and went away to St. Lucia for Christmas. We had a wonderful time. What happened? It was our honeymoon – you don't want all the scord details do you?"





WHY A MOOSE?



of page (What, with those Christmas decorations? - Ed.) has decided to give away 250 (yes! two hundred and fifty) cans of the stuff. Just answer this question: what's a moose? Is it a) a large American animal that looks a bit like a stag only more ugly b) a Scottish mouse c) something squidgy you have for pudding d) something foamy you put on your hair? Postcards on the back of an answer to: *Smash Hits White Foamy Stuff Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF*. Get 'em here by December 31 please.



● Have you noticed how Brylcreem, that ugly old white gunk which "oldsters" fuck all over their hair in an attempt to look "suave", has become a *de rigueur* "style accessory" all of a sudden? Probably something to do with those completely *ber-illiant* black and white ads they've been running on TV lately (like the one above), which *Bitz* reckons are better than many a pop vid. In fact the only thing *more* super-trendy than a pot of Brylcreem these days is a smart'n'stish can of Brylcreem hair mousse, so *Bitz*, being a pretty smart'n'stish kind

- LIMAHL 27 on December 19
- BILLY BRAGG 27 on December 20
- ROBIN CAMPBELL (UB40) 30 on December 25
- ANNIE LENNOX 31 on December 25
- TRACEY ULLMAN 26 on December 30
- ANDY SUMMERS (The Police) 43 on December 31

I S T M A S P A S T



Simon Le Bon
"I remember Christmas 1963 which was the year of the Big Freeze in England, with four or five feet of snow. It was so deep that I opened the door and the snow was over my head! What did I get for Christmas? Oh... a policeman's outfit and a little plastic Tommy gun. I went around arresting people and shooting them all day."



Richard Drumming (Bo West)
"I never seem to associate Christmas with presents and all that - I just have a good time every year. I make sure I'm home, though - I'd even fly back from Australia for the week, because my family would kill me if I missed it."



Nik Kershaw
"I always buy presents that fail to pieces. The first Christmas I spent with my wife Shen I bought her a watch and it stopped and fell to pieces on Boxing Day. Yes, it was a bit embarrassing."



Roger Taylor
"I suppose last Christmas was the best, it was the first one that Giovanna and I had spent together since we were married. We also had our own house for the first time so all of my family and all of her family came over. We had fifteen people there altogether, and a great big dinner. It was really nice!"



Adam Ant
"There was a great Christmas in 1977 when I had no money at all - none - so I spent the whole Christmas visiting all my friends and their families, and went to about eight parties. It was great going to other people's households, and I was really looked after. Christmas is a bit of a worry sometimes because you can forget the goodwill, but that was a nice one because they all made me feel really welcome."



Jon Moss (Culture Club)
"I had a fat Christmas one year, but I topped it off with this terrible car crash on New Year's Eve. It wasn't even my fault! I had to spend two weeks in the hospital, and no one from the Damned, the group I was in at the time, came to visit me. Bastards! Nah, but where are they now?"



Tam Bailey (Thompson Twins)
"The weirdest Christmas I ever had was in India. Christmas there is only a minor feast, and I was so involved in Indian life I actually didn't realize until three in the afternoon that it was Christmas day. I mean, I often work on Christmas day. I sort of resent the way everything grounds to a halt for a week."



Stephen Lascombe (Blancmange)
"One year my mother had the idea of roasting a goose but the oven put way too much fat in the oven with it. She left it to slow-roast overnight, and by the next morning all this congealed fat had flowed out of the oven and into the front room. Urgh! Another year, one of my sisters was born the day before Christmas, which meant my mum was in the hospital on Christmas Day, which wasn't very nice, because I wanted my mummy!"



Mags (A-ha)
"We had a pretty scruffy Christmas in England, didn't we? Oh, we never had one in England? Then I guess my best Christmas would be spending the holidays in Norway, up in the mountains where we have a cottage. It would be a white Christmas with lots of snow and Santa Claus and going out chopping the tree and all that."



Annon Currie (Thompson Twins)
"Last Christmas, we had a wild party in London for homeless waifs and strays, for all the people who didn't have families to go home to. We had a really great not for two days!"

**ROCK
YOUR
BOX!**





SHARP GF 570 LESS BUCKS MORE FIZZ



elton john

WRAP HER UP

THERE ARE LADIES (THERE ARE LADIES)
ILLEGAL EXITS (THERE ARE LADIES) (MONA LISAS)
WELL, CONNECTED (SO WELL CONNECTED)
THEY MAY BE SHADY (MAY BE SHADY)
ENGLISH ROSES (ENGLISH ROSES)
MAY BE BLUE BLOODED (OOH OOH OOH OOH)
TURNED UP HOSES (TURNED UP HOSES)
MGNEY TALKS (MGNEY MOONEY)
SEE WHAT IT CATCHES (SEE WHAT IT CATCHES)
POSTAGE PAID (POSTAGE PAID)
NO STRINGS ATTACHED (NO STRINGS ATTACHED)
SHE'S A MONEEY (SHE'S A MONEEY)
MMM SHE'S A TRAMP (SHE'S A TRAMP)
RGARING TWENTIES (RGARING TWENTIES)
MOLLS AND VAMPS (MOLLS AND VAMPS)

CHORUS

WRAP HER UP I'LL TAKE HER HOME WITH ME
WRAP HER UP SHE IS ALL I NEED
WRAP HER UP I ONLY GET ONE CHANCE
BEASTS AND BEAUTIES BUT THEY ALL CAN DANCE
WRAP HER UP I'LL TAKE HER HOME WITH ME
WRAP HER UP SHE IS ALL I NEED
WRAP HER UP (GIVE HER TO ME)
WRAP HER UP

IS SHE FOREIGN (IS SHE FOREIGN)
LEGS ELEVEN (THOSE LEGS ELEVEN)
ITALIAN GIRLS (ITALIAN GIRLS)
MMM TAKE ME TO HEAVEN (TAKE ME TO HEAVEN)
OOH YGU PRETTY DAMES (PRETTY LADIES)
OOH FROM PARIS FRANCE (PARIS FRANCE)
CRAZY HORSES (CRAZY HORSES)
LOVE TO DANCE (JUST LOVE TO DANCE)

REPEAT CHORUS

GIVE HER TO ME (WRAP HER UP)
I'LL TAKE HER HOME WITH ME WRAP HER UP
SHE IS ALL I NEED WRAP HER UP
I ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE BEASTS AND BEAUTIES
BUT THEY ALL CAN DANCE
WRAP HER UP I'LL TAKE HER HOME WITH ME
WRAP HER UP SHE IS ALL I NEED
WRAP HER UP MMM GIVE HER TO ME
WRAP HER UP OOH MARLENE DIETRICH
(WRAP HER UP) MARILYN MONROE
(WRAP HER UP) BRIGITTE BARDOT
(WRAP HER UP) DORIS DAY
(WRAP HER UP) BILLIE JEAN
SAMANTHA FOX
(WRAP HER UP) JGAN COLLINS
(KIKI DEE)
(WRAP HER UP)
(WRAP HER UP) VIVIEN LEIGH
(WRAP HER UP) GRACE JONES
(WRAP HER UP) CILLA BLACK

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C. MORGAN/P. WESTWOOD
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION BIG PIG MUSIC LTD.
ON ROCKET RECORDS

bryan ferry



Oh baby do it again and again
I can hear nothing
Windswept is the sand

Oh baby come show me more
I can see nothing
Windswept is the shore
Hastawa to nightshade
Oh I'm feeling swept away

Oh I'm oh I'm (feeling swept away)
Oh I'm

Oh baby don't leave me there
With a low whisper
Windswept is the air
You say it's nothing
But a game to play
Oh I'm feeling swept away

Slow baby you can take your time
I can hear nothing
Windswept is the tide
A feeling only or a state of mind
Mama take me high mama
Mama take me high

Oh I'm (feeling swept away)
Oh baby

Oh I'm (feeling swept away)
Oh

Oh I'm (feeling swept away)
Repeat to fade

Words and music by Bryan Ferry
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On EGI Records

WINDSWEEP

THE PET SHOP

an ex-Smash Hits writer and the gra



WEST END GIRLS

...omains you're better off dead
There's a girl in your hand
And it's poisoning at your head
You think you're mad but somebody
kicking in chairs and knocking down tables
In a restaurant in a West End town
Call the police there's a madman around
Kamming down underground
To a drive bar in a West End town

In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
West End girls

Too many shadows whispering voices
Faces are posters but many choices
If when why what how much have you got
Have you got it do you get it
If we have others
Which do you choose
A hard or soft option
(How much do you need)

In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
West End girls West End girls

(How much do you need)

In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
Oh a West End town a dead end world
East End boys West End girls
West End girls

You got a heart of glass or a heart of stone
Just you wish till I get you home
We've got no past
We've got no past
Have today built to last
In every city and every nation
From Lake Geneva to the Finland station
(How far have you been)

In a West End town a dead end world
The East End boys and West End girls
West End town a dead end world
East End boys West End girls
West End girls
West End girls
(How far have you been)
Repeat to end

Words and music by Yousaf/Love
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On Polyphonic Records

OT BOYS ndson of a Nitwit

● Doesn't sound like the ideal line-up for a successful pop duo, does it? But now that "West End Girls" is whizzing up the charts that's exactly what they are.

■ Words: Tom Hibbert ■ Pictures: Eric Watson

Neil Tennant is speaking with the weary and deliberate tone of a man who's just been told some terrible news: "I don't think anyone has faced up to this fact yet," he says, "but Madness has gone a bit boring, haven't they?" He sighs gloomily; it's as if Madness going boring was a tragedy fit for national mourning...

In response to a question about the "state of pop", the Pet Shop Boys have been scanning the singles charts in a magazine and all is done and despond.

"I hate Starship," says Chris Lowe.

"Starship's is an ob-so-lutely wretched record," says Neil Tennant.

"I think Paul McCartney's record is atrocious," says Chris.

"Paul McCartney's record is tragic," says Neil.

"King's record isn't particularly bad."

"Well, it's their best one, but I hate the way Paul King is like 'Oh, hi girls!' He makes me slightly nauseous."

"Brian Adams and Tina Turner's is terrible."

"Tina Turner should be ashamed of herself..."

And so it goes...

"Oh dear," Neil sighs an even gloomier sigh than the one for Madness. "The charts are a very boring experience. That's the annoying thing about being in the charts all the moment - it sort of doesn't count, because they're all so awful..."

Gloom.

"Oh, look!" Chris has arrived at the chart list that reads: **WEST END GIRLS** - Pet Shop Boys.

"We've got a little black spot next to it. I wonder what that means." Declaring that it probably means something quite good, the Pet Shop Boys perk up...

Neil and Chris had never really thought too hard about making hit records before they met in 1981 and started writing songs. They'd both been in a group before, but nothing serious: Neil's group Dust (formed in Newcastle around 1970) had been a fairly incredible String Bend type folk thing with warbling girls called Pauline and Maureen, while Chris had been a teenage piano player in a little dance group

called One Under The Eight (there were seven of them) who performed old-time poppy favourites like "Hello Dolly" and "My Way" at places like the Conservative Club and the Masonic Lodge in Blackpool. Not very rock 'n' roll, was it? Chris didn't even like pop music very much until he started hearing disco stuff around the time of Saturday Night Fever - but at least he had a showbusiness family background of sorts. "My grandfather was one of The Nitwits. They were a sort of comedy jazz group and he played the trombone. He had a beard and he used to wear a wig and he had this big gut bandage over his foot and people were always tripping over it."

No such high jinks in the Tennant family: "My family's always been in rubber," Neil reveals. "It always embarrassed me when I was at school because when we did French oral, I always used to have to say 'mon pere est un representative d'une firm de caoutchouc,' which means 'my father works for a rubber company.' In fact he works for a Swedish rubber company which was even more embarrassing."

After leaving college, Neil went into publishing and journalism; he would eventually end up working for *Smash Hits*, doing exciting things like going "on the road" with Big Country. Chris was studying for a career in architecture ("he built a staircase in Milton Keynes," says Neil in the animated tone of a man who's been told some trilling news) when they first met. It was in a shop on London's King's Road (not a pet shop, nor a hip boutique like The Sex Pistols, but a dull old hi fi and electronics shop). And it was August 19 1981.

Neil went to a rag kind of Elvis Costello fan" back then but Chris instantaneously converted him to disco and introduced him to the not very well known work of an Italian New York writing production Svengali figure called Bobby O who has made billions of records out of murderous disco backing tracks with girl groups like The Flirts and Teen Rock singing over the top. Bobby O became Neil's hero, Chris and Neil became The Pet Shop Boys... Then...

"Smash Hits forced me to go to

New York for one day to interview The Police who I'd never ever liked, so I thought 'well, if I've got to go and see The Police play some horrible concert and then do a fantastically boring interview with Sir Stingford, I'm also going to have lunch with Bobby O.' And he did.

On August 19 (cosmic coincidence) 1983, Bobby O took Neil out for a cheeseburger. They had never met before but the flamboyant New York studio impresario (who looked like a cross between Bruce Springsteen and Woody Woodpecker) was flattered that this journalist from England had even heard of him. And when the journalist from England revealed that he wasn't just a journalist but had this little pop duo on the side, Bobby O put down his burger and boomed "Neil, baby! Let's make a record!!!" And so they did.

The Pet Shop Boys signed a production deal with Bobby O and in 1984 became a sort of cult new wave disco act with a couple with the original version of "West End Girls". In 1985, they lost the erratic Bobby O, chucked in their careers and - bang! - quick as you like, a proper hit record, a "moody" video, Breakfast TV, "hunky" pin-ups and all the trappings.

"So, yes, let's talk about your, like, "musical manifesto". Neil is stumped by the dreadful question... "Oh dear, this feels a bit like



"I have a history of liking pop stars when they go down the dumper. I didn't like Adam Ant till he went down the dumper, then I developed a kind of pathetic devotion to him."

when I interviewed Bonnie Tyler... When you're in my position of being an ex-pop journalist, it's simply an embarrassment trying to analyse and describe what you're doing, because you start saying all the really neat and ridiculous things pop stars used to say to you in interviews. I used to think about pop stars for eight hours a day because it was my job and so now, when we're on stage I can't move my hand without thinking 'oh, no, I've seen that so many times before; it looks just like so and so!' Chris has the same inhibitions, I think."

As if to contradict this, Chris comes out with: "I used to pretend that Tchaikovsky could compose through me, and it worked."

Well, Neil does one of his eccentric English cackles - a noise that's used to rip through the *Smash Hits* office persistently: "I do miss the office atmosphere and making horrible jokes about pop stars," he confesses. "I must have made

hundreds of horrible jokes about pop stars in the pages of *Bitz*, but I think my enduring contribution to *Smash Hits* was that I was the first person to call Billy Idol 'Sir William Iot' - now changed by yourself to Sir William Iotly Iot. Oh, and might I add that my other big contribution was 'purchase'?"

The main difference between writing about pop and doing it, says Neil, is that when you're doing it, you "have to look presentable. That's the real strain: you have to have a show and every time..."

But, actually, the main difference between the two is everything: there's just no comparison and already it seems a very long time ago that he was writing unpleasant things about Culture Club: "I did a review when they appeared at Heaven's. They were ferociously trendy at the time, but they were dreary-white reggae with toasting. It just seemed very boring so I slagged them out - and the day the review came out - I bumped into them in the street and Boy George said 'Are you Neil Tennant?' I thought your review was pathetic. You're really bitchy!' And they all stood around me and I thought there was going to be trouble because that old Mikey whatsaface is quite tough looking. And Jon Moss is quite tough looking... well, he was then..."

Ah, happy days!

"He is rather fat, Boy George, though; I have a history of liking pop stars when they go down the dumper. I didn't like Adam Ant till he went down the dumper, then I developed a kind of pathetic devotion to him. Gary Numan was never fantastically interesting until he went down the dumper, and now I love him to death. I always love them when they go on the slippery slope."

So, will The Pet Shop Boys ever



"I used to pretend that Tchaikovsky could compose through me, and it worked!"

take a ride on the slippery slope themselves?

"Well, to go on the slippery slope - which is a very steep slope - you have to have climbed up very high, like Culture Club. And I don't think we'll ever climb high enough..."

Bonnie? The Pet Shop Boys boring? Coming from the man who once pop-analysed the immortal phrase "It's like punk never happened," this is a bit thick! "Well," says Neil, "the classic fact is that The Bee Gees were a lot bloodier better than The Sex Pistols. And, I might add, we've been told that Barry Gibb loves West End Girls."

And in the giddy firmament of pop, what greater honour is there than that?

he houselights dim, an expectant hush descends, a

figure clad in a gigantic bow-tie approaches the microphone . . . the fifteen thousand six hundred and ninety four squoqlienth vote has been counted and the results of the Smash Hits Readers Poll are about to be announced . . . the tension is almost unbearable as the assembled pop folk cross their fingers and whisper a last silent prayer of "Please, Gawd, let the Smash Hits readers have forgotten all about that dodgy single I made with a children's choir and the useless sci-fi film I played a bloke from outer space in and my croaky singing at Live Aid, oh please, Gawd, don't let them have voted me Prat Of The Year!!!" The figure in the bow-tie tears open an envelope and begins to speak: "I shall read out the results in reverse order . . . In third place - Miss Tasmania!!!" The stupid old goat's turned up at the wrong event - but no matter, for here, in all their glory, are your Final Judgements on the Best and Worst of 1985 . . .



1 DURAN DURAN



3 U2



5 FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD



7 SPANDAU BALLE1



9 GO WEST



2 WHAM!



4 TEARS FOR FEARS



6 A-HA



8 DEPECHE MODE



10 STYLE COUNCIL

1 DURAN DURAN 2 WHAM!

Andrew Ridgeley: "No, look, this is silly - in the future will all you Duran Duran fans please refrain from filling in poll forms because you just make a mockery out of the whole thing and in any case you're all retards and not very witty with it. And anyway you're all just jealous because we sell more records than anybody else in the whole world and that's official! JEALOUS! JEALOUS! JEALOUS! JEALOUS!"

3 U2 4 TEARS FOR FEARS

Curt: "Duran Duran first? That's a shock! Wham! second - what a surprise. It's interesting though that U2 are third - it's nice to be below one good group with taste and discretion."

5 FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Holly Johnson: "I'm surprised we got in at all. I thought people would have forgotten about us. Anyway I'm glad they haven't. Still, saying all that I think we should have won because we're better than all those other groups. And I'm surprised that Duran won again. I thought Wham! would have pissed it!"

6 A-HA

Pat: "Who were the five in front of us?"

Mags: "Duran, Wham!, U2, Tears For Fears, Frankie? Well, U2 deserve it."

7 SPANDAU BALLET 8 DEPECHE MODE 9 GO WEST

Paul King: "Being in the best group poll at all is fantastic! We've obviously made an impression and to cross over from being a new band to being in there with the established bands is just wonderful."

10 ULTRAVOX 11 THOMPSON TWINS 12 SIMPLE MINDS 13 QUEEN 14 MARRILLION 15 THE SMITHS 16 ARCADIA 17 SCRITTI POLITTI 18 THE CURE



ROUP

WORST GROUP

Simon le Bon: "I think this is incredible, considering we've been out of the picture so much this year. Our fans are so dedicated it's unbelievable. They have a lot of faith in us and despite all the rumours in Fleet Street they obviously know we're getting back together next year. And what have I got to say to Wham!? Na na ne na naa!"



Photo: LIT

- 1 WHAM!
- 2 THE SMITHS



Photo: Paul Galtrey

- 3 DURAN DURAN
- 4 CULTURE CLUB
- 5 BLACK LACE
- 6 FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD
- 7 STYLE COUNCIL
- 8 THE CULT
- 9 IRON MAIDEN
- 10 OPUS

● **Bubbling under:** Jesus And Mary Chain; Flying Pickets; Amazulu; Bronski Beat; Bucks Fizz; Power Station

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF BEST GROUP

- 1981**
- 1 Adam And The Ants
 - 2 The Human League
 - 3 Duran Duran
 - 4 The Police
 - 5 Madness
 - 6 Ultravox
 - 7 OMD
 - 8 The Jam
 - 9 Japan
 - 10 The Teardrop Explodes
- 1982**
- 1 Duran Duran
 - 2 Japan
 - 3 The Jam
 - 4 Harvest One Hundred
 - 5 Madness
 - 6 ABC
 - 7 Spanish Ballet
 - 8 Ultravox
 - 9 Soft Cell
 - 10 Devo's Midnight Runners
- 1983**
- 1 Duran Duran
 - 2 Culture Club
 - 3 Wham!
 - 4 Spanish Ballet
 - 5 Madness
 - 6 Depeche Mode
 - 7 Heaven 17
 - 8 UB40
 - 9 The Police
 - 10 Big Country
- 1984**
- 1 Duran Duran
 - 2 Wham!
 - 3 Frankie Goes To Hollywood
 - 4 Culture Club
 - 5 Spanish Ballet
 - 6 U2
 - 7 Depeche Mode
 - 8 Thompson Twins
 - 9 Ultravox
 - 10 Style Council

Nick Rhodes: "Out of all the categories I'm most pleased with this one. It's unbelievable if you think we've done hardly anything this year and what we have done - 'A View To A Kill' - has done fantastically well. As have Arcadia and The Power Station. I'm glad we've gone on with all our projects - it was a good break, but I can't wait to get back next year . . ."

John Taylor: "It's just fabulous that all of our fans have stuck with us through a not particularly good year. I'd like to thank them all. Arcadia and The Power Station have provided interesting diversifications, but normal service will be resumed as soon as possible."



MOST BRILLIANT HAIRCUT



1. GEORGE MICHAEL



2. PAUL KING



3. GEORGE MICHAEL



4. GEORGE MICHAEL



5. GEORGE MICHAEL

Paul King: "My hair changes from day to day depending on what position I sleep in, and that's why the readers are confused and I'm not no. 1 in the best hair poll."



6. GEORGE MICHAEL



7. GEORGE MICHAEL



8. GEORGE MICHAEL



9. GEORGE MICHAEL



10. GEORGE MICHAEL

Nik Kershaw: "Which haircut? I've had about seven so far this year! I'm not in the worst section? Oh well, that's good."

MOST USELESS HAIRCUT



1. GEORGE MICHAEL



2. GEORGE MICHAEL



3. ANDREW RIDGELEY

Andrew Ridgeley: "Fair enough. I did have a fairly horrid haircut. Very lank and despondent I must say."



4. PAUL WELLER



7. ROBEKI SMYTH



1. BOB GILBERT



4. GEORGE MICHAEL



3. MADONNA



9. PAUL KING



16. PETE BURNS



15. BOB TAYLOR



a-ha

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THE 6th ANNUAL SMASH HITS READERS' POLL

BEST TV AD



- 1 OXO
- 2 LONG LIFE
- 3 LEVI'S
- 4 TRIO
- 5 ANDREX
- 6 HOLSTEN PILS
- 7 BRITISH TELECOM
- 8 CARLING BLACK LABEL
- 9 SMITHS CRISPS
- 10 BRITISH AIRWAYS



Smiths Crisps (9th)



Trio (4th)

A cube speaks! "What me? Number one in the charts? Well, about bleedin' time, that's what I say. Twenty years I've been doing these ads, having to slip out of my shiny OXO wrapper. Performing IN THE NUDE! Just to sell myself. Exploitation, that's what I call it. Dipping into the stew while horrid kids crowd round and ask 'Mummy, is it a hamburger?' IS IT A HAMBURGER?! I ask you! Oh well, mustn't crumble . . . haw haw, good that . . ."

WORST TV AD

- 1 NESCAFÉ
Dame Una "Una Stubbs" Nescafé:
"The worst ad? I'm not surpr . . . oh NO, I didn't say that - I quite enjoy making a living. . ."
- 2 ARIEL
- 3 FAIRY LIQUID
- 4 PERSIL
- 5 BOLD AUTOMATIC
- 6 OXO
- 7 TYPHOO
- 8 WHISKAS
- 9 OVALTINE
- 10 PEDIGREE CHUM



Persil (4th)



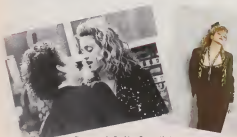
Una Stubbs: Nescafé (1st)



Typhoo (7th)

BEST FILM

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN | 6 POLICE ACADEMY |
| 2 VIEW TO A KILL | 7 GHOSTBUSTERS |
| 3 BEVERLY HILLS COP | 8 GREMLINS |
| 4 RAMBO | 9 BLUE LAGOON |
| 5 MAD MAX: BEYOND THUNDERDOME | 10 BREAKFAST CLUB |



Desperately Seeking Susan (1st)

WORST FILM

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 RAMBO | 6 MAD MAX: BEYOND THUNDERDOME |
| 2 DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN | 7 GHOSTBUSTERS |
| 3 THE CARE BEARS | 8 DUNE |
| 4 RETURN TO OZ | 9 GREMLINS |
| 5 A VIEW TO A KILL | 10 COCOON |



John Rambo: "Smash Hits readers are nothing but a load of limey yellow commie peace-queer punks so I'm off to kill some more foreigners."

Gremlins (9th)

Next 45

You little Thief

feargal sharks



MUSIC BY FEARGAL TIME BY SWATCHES

- TOUR DATES:
- January
 - 27 Chippinham Gold Diggers
 - 28 Birmingham Odeon
 - 30 Leicester De Montfort Hall
 - 31 Nottingham Royal Court
 - 3 Manchester Apollo
 - 4 Preston Guildhall
 - 6 Sheffield City Hall
 - 7 Leeds University
 - 9 Newcastle City Hall
 - 10 Edinburgh Playhouse
 - 11 Glasgow Barronlands
 - 17 Liverpool Royal Court
 - 18 Bristol Colston Hall
 - 19 Portsmouth Guildhall
 - 21 Crawley Leisure Centre
 - 22 Hammersmith Odeon

New Single - OUT NEXT WEEK:
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And a free gift card with every record token.

Not to mention yards of streamers, acres of balloons and, of course, non-stop music.

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ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

BEST DJ

2 MIKE READ

Make Read: "I'm absolutely delighted to come second to my old chum Steve Wright. We've been friends for years - it's only just and fair that he wins this time, he deserves to, he devotes all his time to broadcasting. Has *Saturday Superlive* come anywhere? No? Oh well. . ."

- 3 GARY DAVIES
- 4 BRUNO BOOKES
- 5 PETER POWELL
- 6 JANICE LONG

Janice Long: "Bloody Hell! That's made my day. I never expect to come anywhere in things like this. I don't even mind coming sixth worst - if I had to vote I'd put myself as worst DJ too!"

- 7 ANNE NIGHTINGALE
- 8 DAVID JENSEN
- 9 JOHN PEEL
- 10 TIMMY MALLET



1 STEVE WRIGHT

Steve Wright: "Woooooooooooooh!!! I've only ever won a concubint before. That's really heartwarming - I wouldn't have thought I was hip enough for your readers. I'm sorry I've knocked Mike off the top spot, though - he's a far better broadcaster than I am. I'm going to make an official statement now: Steve Wright, his producer Malcolm Brown and the entire BBC technical department - hitherto known as *The Afternoon Boys* - would like to say a big thank you to all *Smash Hits* readers. Byeccc!"

Previous Winners

1981	1982
1 The Top 40 Show	1 Mike Read
2 Mike Read	2 The Top 40 Show
3 John Peel	3 David Jensen
4 Peter Powell	4 Steve Wright
5 Noel Edmonds	5 Peter Powell
6 Roundtable	6 John Peel
7 Richard Skinner	7 Dave Lee Travis
8 B. 15	8 Noel Edmonds
9 Dave Lee Travis	9 Roundtable
10 Steve Wright	10 Simon Bates



Janice Long (6th)

WORST DJ

than just being wishy washy."

- 4 GARY DAVIES
- 5 TONY BLACKBURN
- 6 JANICE LONG
- 7 BRUNO BOOKES
- 8 PETER POWELL
- 9 DAVE LEE TRAVIS
- 10 SIMON BATES



1 MIKE READ

Mike Read: "Yeah, well, the worst lists are always the same as the best DJ lists aren't they? Although you do get a couple of the really bad DJs creeping in there. . ."

- 2 JIMMY SAVILE
- 3 STEVE WRIGHT

Steve Wright: "That's good - it means people are reacting either negatively or positively. It's better



Photo: Graham Tomlin

THE ALBUM PRODUCED BY TREVOR HORN AND STEPHEN HAGUE

ALL TRACKS RECORDED BETWEEN 1982 AND 1984

Malcolm McLaren

SWAMP THING

CASSETTE CASMC1170 RECORD CAS1170

BEST MUSIC TV PROGRAMME

1 TOP OF THE POPS

Michael Hurll (Producer): "The best and worst? Well, I'm absolutely thrilled because, for the first time in my life, I've been able to please all of the people *all* of the time."

2 THE TUBE

3 WHISTLE TEST

Andy Kershaw: "Oh great stuff! We're definitely going to be celebrating this one. I understand Mark Ellen still has a half empty sticky bottle of Clandew left over from *Smash Hits*, so we'll be finishing that off after the next show."

4 BLISS

5 SOUL TRAIN

6 MAX HEADROOM

7 NO LIMITS

8 MIAMI VICE

9 LIVE AID

10 READY STEADY GO



Michael Hurll, producer of *Top Of The Pops* (1st)



Andy Kershaw of *Whistle Test* (2nd)



Max Headroom (6th)



Miami Vice (8th)

WORST

1 TOP OF THE POPS

2 THE TUBE

3 WHISTLE TEST

4 SOUL TRAIN

5 RAZZMATAZZ

6 BLISS



Keith Chegwin (7th)

7 CHEGGERS PLAYS POP

8 RAINBOW

9 POP QUIZ

10 SONGS OF PRAISE



Sharon Watts from *EastEnders* (1st)



Adrian Mole (3rd)

1 EASTENDERS

Letitia Dean (Sharon Watts): "I'm delighted that readers of *Smash Hits* enjoy *EastEnders*. Everyone on the *EastEnders* team both in front of and behind the camera have worked very hard to make it a success and we're all thrilled it has been voted the Number 1 programme. I've enjoyed playing my part very much so I'm pleased and very flattered that your readers" (continues in *this Sir Richard "Duckie" Attenborough-type fazon for several million years*...)

2 BROOKSIDE

Sheila Greer (Sandra McGee): "That's wonderful. What came first? Well, I expected that because *EastEnders* have been trying everything - I just wonder how long they can keep up the pace. I wish them all the best but I wouldn't want to be on a programme with 17 million viewers because I'd never work again. They were voted second worst programme? That's the North reacting against Cockneys."

3 ADRIAN MOLE

Gian Sammarco (Adrian Mole): "I've come third to *EastEnders* and *Brookside*? Well, I like *EastEnders*, but not *Brookside*. Actually, it's quite flattering - I read *Smash Hits* myself. You should write more stuff about *The Curse*, though."

4 THE YOUNG ONES

Adrian Edmonson (Young Ones/Happy Families): "I'm not surprised *The Young Ones* has done so well, even though it's been out for two years. It's still far better than most things on TV - TV's so awful these days. I am surprised *Happy Families* is so popular - I didn't think it'd catch on."

5 MIAMI VICE

6 DEMPSEY & MAKEPEACE

7 MINDER

8 'ALLO 'ALLO

9 DYNASTY

10 HAPPY FAMILIES



Benny from *Crossroads* (1st)

1 CROSSROADS

2 EASTENDERS

3 CORONATION STREET

4 RAINBOW

5 EMMERDALE FARM

6 BLUE PETER

7 DYNASTY

8 WOGAN

9 3-2-1

10 ALBION MARKET

1981

- 1 Top Of The Pops
- 2 Not The Nine O'Clock News
- 3 Tiswas
- 4 Coronation Street
- 5 Brideshead Revisited
- 6 A Kick Up The Eighties
- 7 The Professionals
- 8 Game For A Laugh
- 9 Dallas
- 10 Grange Hill

1982

- 1 Top Of The Pops
- 2 Fame
- 3 Old Grey Whistle Test
- 4 Coronation Street
- 5 Kenny Everett TV Show
- 6 Reversal
- 7 Game For A Laugh
- 8 The Late Late Breakfast Show
- 9 Minder
- 10 Dallas

1983

- 1 Top Of The Pops
- 2 The Tube
- 3 Coronation Street
- 4 Three Of A Kind
- 5 The Young Ones
- 6 Pop Quiz
- 7 The A Team
- 8 Saturday Superstore
- 9 Hill Street Blues
- 10 The Late Late Breakfast Show

1984

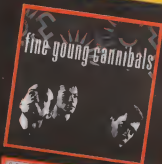
- 1 The Young Ones
- 2 Top Of The Pops
- 3 The Tube
- 4 Brookside
- 5 Saturday Superstore
- 6 Pop Quiz
- 7 Dynasty
- 8 Coronation Street
- 9 Dallas
- 10 Minder

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BEST DRESSED PERSON

1 JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor: "Simply look at the cover and let the nation decide!"

2 NICK RHODES

Nick Rhodes: "What! John beat me? The bastard! Bad taste, Duranans! No, the problem with me and John is that he can go out to a clothes shop in New York and I can go to one here and end up with exactly the same outfit. It's very strange. It happens an awful lot. Or we'll both be in England and I'll go out looking for the most obscure outfit possible and he'll go out the same day and we'll meet later in the evening and we'll be wearing exactly the same thing. Anyway, at least I beat Don Johnson!"

3 SIMON LE BON

4 MADONNA

5 GEORGE MICHAEL

6 PRINCESS DI



Photo: City Syndicate

Princess Di: A Buckingham Palace spokesperson says: "This is not the sort of thing we comment on, I'm afraid. Nice at all. No, I'm sorry. Thank you. Goodbye!" Heity toity!

7 DAVID BOWIE

8 MIDGE URE

9 DON JOHNSON

(Miami Vice)

10 PAUL YOUNG

WORST DRESSED PERSON

1 BOB GELDOF

2 MADONNA

3 MORRISSEY

4 BOY GEORGE

5 GEORGE MICHAEL

6 MARGARET

THATCHER



7 PRINCE

8 PAUL WELLER

9 PRINCE CHARLES

10 TERRY WOGAN

MOST WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING

1 BOB GELDOF

2 JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor: "For once in my life I have to concede. But are you sure it shouldn't have been Billy Idol at number one?"

3 SIMON LE BON

Simon le Bon: "Seriously, I think Bob totally deserves this. If you look at the rest of the names it just doesn't compare, really. He genuinely deserved to win."

4 GEORGE MICHAEL

5 MADONNA

6 PAUL YOUNG

7 NICK RHODES

Nick Rhodes: "I can't comment on that - I'm far too bashful. I just think it's nice that people have acknowledged what Bob's achieved this year. He deserves the respect."

8 BONO

9 BILLY IDOL

10 MIDGE URE

Midge Ure: "I've done quite well, really, haven't I? I'm surprised to be in it at all. But then this is the first year I've done anything on my own without Ultravox, so maybe that's got something to do with it".



MOST FANCIABLE PERSON

1 JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor: "God! What do I have to do to be taken seriously? ... How much did I win by?"

2 SIMON LE BON

3 GEORGE MICHAEL

4 PAUL YOUNG

5 MARK O'TOOLE

6 MICHAEL PRAED

7 NICK RHODES

Nick Rhodes: "Again, I'm far too bashful to comment."

8 ROGER TAYLOR

9 BILLY IDOL

10 BONO



Previous Winners

1981

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Adam Ant | 1 John Taylor |
| 2 Simon le Bon | 2 Boy George |
| 3 David Sylvian | 3 Andrew Ridgeley |
| 4 Sting | 4 Simon le Bon |
| 5 John Taylor | 5 Nick Rhodes |
| 6 Midge Ure | 6 Lemmy |
| 7 Gary Numan | 7 Roger Taylor |
| 8 Philip Oakey | 8 Nick Hayward |
| 9 Julian Cope | 9 Paul Young |
| 10 Suggs | 10 George Michael |

1982

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Simon le Bon | 1 John Taylor |
| 2 David Sylvian | 2 George Michael |
| 3 John Taylor | 3 Simon le Bon |
| 4 Nick Hayward | 4 Paul Young |
| 5 Adam Ant | 5 Boy George |
| 6 Boy George | 6 Nick Rhodes |
| 7 Carl Smith | 7 Roger Taylor |
| 8 Nick Rhodes | 8 Mark O'Toole |
| 9 Roger Taylor | 9 Andrew Ridgeley |
| 10 Midge Ure | 10 Nik Kenwood |



Photo: Theresa O'Neil

Not so long ago Bob Geldof was just a singer in a down-the-dumper band. Today, as the man behind the biggest charity project in the history of the world (\$52 million raised to date), he's "Saint Bob". In 1985, he's been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, met numerous heads of state, addressed the EEC, been offered an audience with the Pope and received an award from the United Nations. And he's been voted the year's Most Wonderful All-Round Human Being by YOU.

The second Most Wonderful Human Being is some bloke called John Taylor. Peter Martin met both of them . . .

4.00 p.m. Saturday November 30 and Bob Geldof's just pulled up in a taxi outside John Taylor's flat in West London. Wearing a black knee-length fur coat and matching hat, he looks a far cry from the dishevelled denim-clad, fist-raised figure of July 13. John Taylor hardly looks himself either as he opens the door dressed in a towel and t-shirt. His hair's dripping wet, he's in need of a shave and, it has to be said, he's put on weight. "All those pizzas in New York, I'm afraid," he confesses.

Bob tromps in, slings his hat and coat on the couch and is ushered upstairs to the impromptu studio where we're going to take the *Smash Hits* cover photo. A long, light room, dominated by a white grand piano and a giant metallic TV/Video console, the walls are lined with photos of females with dodgy footwear, whips and not many clothes. Bob seems unimpressed. He paces the room, impatiently . . .

Although the pair obviously know one another, you could hardly describe them as "best mates". But the slight air of unease begins to fade as Bob begins to take the "mickey".

"God! What's that?", he splutters, pointing at a framed picture of Duran Duran on the wall.

"It's a cover shot of a magazine," says John, almost apologetically. "It's one of my favourites."

"Ugh! It's horrible! You look like a big poncey poof!"

John settles himself down on a leather couch, smirking. "So what's

all this in the papers about your American record company dropping you, then?" he asks, mischievously.

"Oh, the contract ran out, that's all. It happened ages ago. I don't know why the papers picked up on it now . . ."

All this mock bitchiness is only their way of "breaking the ice", and with that out of the way they get down to the important business: i.e. an in-depth analysis of the *Smash Hits* Readers' Poll.

"Aren't we going to tell Bob how he's done?" giggles John. "Let me do it, let me do it . . ." He smiles, wickedly. "So, Bob Geldof," John assumes the voice of a posh TV announcer, "can we backtrack to earlier this year, to that fateful day, LIVE AID!"

"Oh get on with it," moans Bob. "Right, then. So, it seems that I am the Best Dressed person . . . and you're the worst. What do you think about that then?"

There's a moment's pause: "You bastards! Five years ago I was voted the Best Dressed person and Prince Charles came second. How the maggy have fallen! I've discussed this with Madonna, who I'm glad to see came second, and we've decided to get together. I've volunteered to take off every item of her clothing, one by one, just to try and find out where we're going wrong . . . And you were voted Best Dressed then, were you? . . . well, you're just a great poncey poof - and I bet you got up at 9.00 this morning to get ready for this photo session! . . . Next!"

John: "Well, you've been voted most useless haircut as well . . ."

"Ha! Well, I must agree with this one. My haircut has absolutely no use!"

"You've also been voted the Most Wonderful Human Being In The World . . ."

"Really? That's brilliant. Really, that's fabulous. What can I say?" He looks well chuffed at that one, genuinely chuffed - even John looks a bit stuffy and he didn't even win. The mood doesn't last long though - it's a bit embarrassing being sincere and emotional. Mack enters to mess about: "And so, Bob," continues John, "how do you feel about Live Aid coming first in (a moment's pause to cue *farefare*) . . . EVENT OF THE YEAR?"

"What? You mean it beat THE SINKING OF DRUM? Well, Simon shipped up there, I think; the sinking wasn't televised live and there was no satellite broadcast. He'd have definitely won in that case."

Bob, loath to get all boring about Live Aid, moves on to other poll results like Worst TV Ad. "Nescate? Is that the one with the . . ." he

©Continues over



shakes some invisible coffee beans in his hand. . . . And Prat Of The Year: "How can George Michael have won that? I think he's a really nice bloke. . . ."

Now where has Bob come in Prat Of The Year? "What? Only 13th? I thought I might have been in line for that. It's not very imaginative voting for pop stars when there's all these politicians around, though, is it?"

That's his lot. He now disappears to put on make-up for the photo session. Minutes later, he's back: "God, I'm completely knackered," he sighs, plonking himself back down on the couch. "Next year I'll really have to sort myself out. I really want to have a rest for a bit but I'm absolutely skint. So I've got to start doing some work again. You know, it really annoys me but no-one in the media has heard the Boomtown Rats play for years or seen our records. You're not in a band for 10 years without being any good, you know."

While Bob's energies have been tied up with all the charity efforts, John Taylor has been working. He's been collaborating on film music with electronics expert Jonathan Elias: they've done a track for the new Mackey Rourke film *9½ Weeks* and since then they've been approached to submit a theme for the 1986 Commonwealth Games as well as working with the Save The Children fund on an epic project called "Requiem For The Americas". And on the *9½ Weeks* track, John actually sings!

"I was really nervous when I did it," he says. "I've only ever done backing vocals open and that was on 'Wild Boys'." He decides to exhibit his vocal talents by playing a demo of the track. "It's a very rough version - I mixed it myself." Bob's verdict: "You can tell it's a bit mix - you can't hear the voice! . . . Honestly! You come to someone's house and what do they do? PLAY THEIR OWN BLOODY RECORDS! . . ." And waddy that he gets up and disappears downstairs.

"God! He's not going to get his make-up done again?!" bawls John after him.

We're just about ready to do the photos now, but there's a mild panic concerning make-up because no-one's got a white kohl pencil, a thing which, according to Bob, "works wonders under the eyes". John takes revenge for the horrible remarks about his record by hurling a barrage of sassy comments at Bob for making such a fuss about make-up.

"But I didn't want it - I thought you wanted it!" retorts Bob.

"No, I never," snaps John. "I didn't even mention it. It's YOU who's causing all the commotion!" Now, now children. Giggling, they both plunk themselves down on a curious black perspex cube next to the piano. . . . Finally, they're ready for the photo session - and, like true professionals, they get it done in 20 minutes flat.

"Where's my jumper?" booms Bob Geldof. His taxi has arrived to take him away but he spends a good ten minutes hunting for his jumper before we manage to convince him that he wasn't wearing one in the first place. And then he's gone. "Well, that wasn't too bad, was it?" John smiles.

No, it wasn't. They actually seemed to enjoy themselves.

"You'd think after everything he's been through this year he'd be a bit . . . different," says John. "But basically . . . he's just a bloke."

EVENT OF THE YEAR

1 LIVE AID

Nick Rhodes: "Well, I totally agree with Live Aid. And the Sinking Of Drum? Well, I have considered sending torpedoes into Drum before it takes sail - making sure Simon's not on board of course. You see, I have a vision of yachts: they're wonderful creatures when they're tied up and in harbour, but once they're let loose. . . . They're only good for having cocktails on as far as I'm concerned!"

2 THE SINKING OF DRUM

3 ANDREW RIDGELEY'S CAR CRASHES

Andrew Ridgeley: "It's hardly an event - I mean an event's something that happens once, a special occasion. I crash cars all the time! I'm sorry, but that doesn't count."

4 MADONNA'S WEDDING

5 MICHELLE GETTING PREGNANT IN EASTENDERS

6 WHAM!'S TOUR OF CHINA

7 THE BROOKSIDE SIEGE

The survivors speak! Sheila Greener (Sandra Mc Gee): "I don't want to sound soppy about it but I'm really, really pleased because we truly lived that siege. For three weeks while we were filming I didn't wash my hair, I didn't go out, it was all very claustrophobic and emotional. . . . It didn't do my cigarette consumption much good. . . ."



Live Aid (1st)

David Easter (Pat Hancock): "Bloody brilliant. You can quote me on that - *Bloody brilliant!* I'm going to tell my mum about this because she didn't think it got enough attention. Michelle's pregnancy came higher than us? Well, you see that got massive press coverage, didn't it - Mary Whitehouse and everything - but we were hardly mentioned. I think *Brookside* is still the most dramatic and the most real life soap opera and this has really made our day. . . ."

8 DURAN DURAN SPLIT IN TWO

9 BORIS BECKER WINNING WIMBLEDON

10 CHRISTMAS

Previous Winners

1983

- 1 Datta's concert for Menap
- 2 The Kangaroo Larakhi split
- 3 Wham!'s "Club Fantasy" tour
- 4 David Bowie's "Serious Moonlight" tour
- 5 BBC's *It's Rock Around The Clock*
- 6 Duran Duran playing live for The Prince of Wales Trust
- 7 Channel 4's *Midsummer Nigh's Tale*
- 8 Duran Duran getting to number one with "Is There Something I Should Know?"
- 9 Eddie Yates Getting Married on *Companion Street*
- 10 Culture Club's "Colour By Numbers" tour

1984

- 1 Roger Taylor's wedding
- 2 The banning of Frankie's "Relax" by the BBC
- 3 Andrew Ridgeley's nose job
- 4 Nick Rhodes's wedding
- 5 The birth of B.R.H. Peace Henry
- 6 Frankie Getting to Number One
- 7 BBC's *It's Rock Around The Clock*
- 8 Wham! getting to number one
- 9 The birth of Andy and Tracey Taylor's Baby
- 10 Radio 1's "Suzanne of 34" concert

NON-EVENT OF THE YEAR

- 1 MADONNA'S WEDDING
- 2 THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TOUR
- 3 WHAM!'S TOUR OF CHINA
- 4 THE SUMMER
- 5 THE TORY PARTY CONFERENCE
- 6 PRINCE CHARLES & PRINCESS DI'S TV INTERVIEW
- 7 THE TEACHERS' STRIKE
- 8 JENNIFER RUSH
- 9 THE THOMPSON TWINS TOUR
- 10 REAGAN MEETING GORBACHEV



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and many 12" singles still available including

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(Don't You) Forget About Me

Vega

CROSSWORD

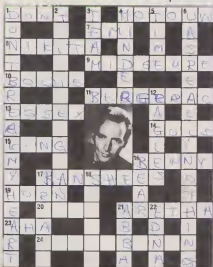


ACROSS

- 1 ———— "Mesa With Dr. Dreath"
 (Thompson Twins)
 4 **Lionel Richie's** record label
 7 ———— label found amid **Simple Minds**
 (1 1 1)
 8 **Eliot's** Russian girlfriend
 9 See photocut
 10 **David** who suggested "Let's Dance"
 11 Jersey-based TV detective played by **John Nettles**
- 13 **David**, currently in hit musical **Mouly**
 14 It was certainly precious to **Spence's Belief**
 15 Those 1970s teen-idolists
 16 Little parker who came to boogie
 17 **Siouxsie's** band of Wales
 19 Clever **Trevor** from ZTT
 20 **Big Country** were east of here
 21 Erythral-soul sister **Franklin**
 23 Norwegians — need we say more?
 24 War-torn country that provided **DMD**
 with a hit (3,7)

DOWN

- 1 **UB40's** pies regarding their old
 lover (4,5,2,5)
 2 This single, Dan, provided **The**
Cleash with a recent hit (anag 4,2,7)
 3 **Hannibal Smith's** is of the A sort
 4 TV series — just Think of **Adul's Terry**
 5 **Culture Club** hit and an upcoming
Cliff Richard musical.
 6 **William, it** — — — — —
 (The Smiths, 3,5,7)
- 12 ———— Les Age forms **Don Henley** and
Glen Frey's old band (anag)
 16 Yogi ———— Paddington or that Hoffmeister
 ———— swaggerian
 17 Every ———— I Take (**Police**)
 18 Not an album — like **Cemae's** life
 21 ———— those once-as-conquering Swedes
 22 **Dame** ———— **Everage**



ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



Pin your ears back for the latest sounds from Commodore User

With the January Issue of **Commodore User** is a specially recorded **Flexi Disc** featuring **exclusive** recordings of **Heaven 17**, using the Commodore 64 advanced

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APPEARING
WEMBLEY ARENA
(WITH MIDGE URE) DEC 23rd

BEST MALE SINGER

1 SIMON LE BON
Simon Le Bon: "Hurrah! And George Michael's the worst singer! Ha! No, really I think Sting or Bono should have won, I don't deserve it."
Nick Rhodes: "Good. I've told him to jack in this sailing lark and to form a group. I think he might do well."

John Taylor: "Bravo!"

2 GEORGE MICHAEL
3 BONO
4 NIK KERSHAW

Nik Kershaw: "Not bad for a guitar player. I wasn't actually going to do any of the singing originally, just get a publishing contract and write songs. Where did Peter from Go West come? I think he's got an amazing voice. Bono's great too and I think George Michael uses his voice really well. Shall we cast a veil over Simon le Bon? Yes, I think so."

5 MIDGE URE
6 PAUL YOUNG
7 BILLY IDOL
8 DAVID BOWIE
9 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
10 HOWARD JONES
11 PAUL KING
12 PHIL COLLINS
13 PRINCE
14 MORRISSEY
15 PETER COX (Go West)
16 FREDDIE MERCURY
17 MARC ALMOND
18 STING
19 HOLLY JOHNSON
20 GREEN

WORST MALE SINGER

1 GEORGE MICHAEL
2 SIMON LE BON

Nick Rhodes: "I've told him to stop all this singing lark and become a sailor."

3 MORRISSEY
4 BOY GEORGE
5 MARC ALMOND
6 PRINCE
7 SHAKIN' STEVENS
8 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
9 BILLY BRAGG
10 PAUL WELLER

BEST FEMALE SINGER

1 MADONNA
2 ALISON MOYET



Alison Moyet: "Thanks to everyone who voted for me. It's nice to be remembered considering I only had one single out in '85."

3 ANNIE LENNOX
4 SADE
5 KATE BUSH
6 TINA TURNER
7 BONNIE TYLER



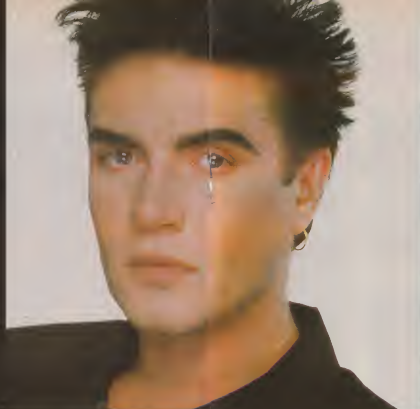
Bonnie Tyler: "With all the competition around I consider it a compliment to be considered in any category."

8 JENNIFER RUSH
9 GRACE JONES
10 SIOUXSIE SIOUX
11 KIM WILDE
12 CHRISSE HYNDE
14 TOYAH
15 DEE C LEE
16 CLAUDIA BRUCKEN (Propaganda)
17 CYNDI LAUPER
18 JAKI GRAHAM
19 LIZ FRASER (Cocteau Twins)
20 ROSE McDOWELL (Strawberry Switchblade)

P R E V I O U S

BEST MALE SINGER

1981	1982	1983	1984
1 Gary Numan	1 Susan Le Bon	1 Simon Le Bon	1 Simon Le Bon
2 Adam Ant	2 Adam Ant	2 Boy George	2 George Michael
3 Shakin' Stevens	3 David Sylvian	3 Paul Young	3 Paul Young
4 David Bowie	4 Shalby	4 David Bowie	4 Howard Jones
5 Philby Oakley	5 Boy George	5 Nick Heyward	5 Nik Kershaw
6 Sting	6 Midge Ure	6 Michael Jackson	6 Boy George
7 Midge Ure	7 Gary Numan	7 George Michael	7 Michael Jackson
8 Simon Le Bon	8 Paul Waller	8 Linnell	8 David Bowie
9 Julian Cope	9 Paul McCartney	9 Tony Hadley	9 Holly Johnson
10 Paul Weller	10 David Bowie	10 David Sylvian	10 Bono



THE 6th ANNUAL
SMASH HITS
READERS' POLL

BEST GROUP

D U R A N
D U R A N



BEST VIDEO

1 "TAKE ON ME"

A-ha

Pål Waaktaar: "We didn't have much to do with it, but it's a good video. It complements the song and takes chances. It was very important to 'break' us in the initial stages. How much did it cost? Well over £100,000."

2 "A VIEW TO A KILL"

Duran Duran

John Taylor: "Video yawn! I'm so bored with videos these days I didn't even bother doing one for the last Power Station single."

Nick Rhodes: "I'm really glad about this one. We put a lot of work into the videos and I think 'A View To A Kill' is one of our best. It combines the Bond tradition with Duran humour really well, I think. And on 'Election Day' I put a lot of work into it myself, so of course I'm pleased it did so well. It's a little more abstract than our previous work - there's more movement, yet it doesn't overshadow the actual song. It's definitely one of my favourites."

Simon Le Bon: "Mmm. I do think the A-ha video is good, it's quite a clever technique. Shame it's such a crappy song."

3 "ELECTION DAY"

Arcadia

4 "CLOSE TO ME"

The Cure

5 "DANCING IN THE STREETS"

Mick Jagger/David Bowie

6 "INTO THE GROOVE"

Madonna

7 "MONEY FOR NOTHING"

Dire Straits

8 "THE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE"

U2

9 "IF I WAS"

Midge Ure

10 "UNCLE SAM"

Madness



"Take On Me" (1st)



"Close To Me" (3rd)



"A View To A Kill" (2nd)



"If I Was" (9th)



"Election Day" (5th)



WORST VIDEO

1 "IF I WAS"

Midge Ure

Midge Ure: "Well, all I can say is the people who voted must be blind. I always direct my own videos, and I put a lot of care into them. I thought it was a great video."

2 "INTO THE GROOVE"

Madonna

3 "YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE"

The Crowd

4 "A VIEW TO A KILL"

Duran Duran

5 "TAKE ON ME"

A-ha

6 "LAST CHRISTMAS"

Wham!

7 "THE BOY WITH THE THORN IN HIS SIDE"

The Smiths

8 "DANCING IN THE STREETS"

Mick Jagger/David Bowie

9 "LEAN ON ME"

Red Box

Julian Close (Red Box): "That really surprises me because they're always playing it in pubs with video juke-boxes. There's no accounting for taste."

10 "TARZAN BOY"

Baltimore



"Lean On Me" (7th)

Photo: USA

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HIS BOOKS

MOST VERY HORRIBLE THING



George Michael and his beard (1st)



Prince's moustache (5th)



Rambo sorry, Morrissey (8th)

- 1 GEORGE MICHAEL'S BEARD
- 2 MARGARET THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT
- 3 BOY GEORGE
- 4 MADONNA'S BEAUTY SPOT
- 5 PRINCE'S MOUSTACHE
- 6 SIMON LE BON
- 7 SPIDERS



A spider speaks!
"Coooo, the feelin's entirely mutual, I can assure you!! Human so-called bein's wiv their big fat pink blubbery legs and their 'orend squealin's every time you crawls up ver borf plug - blizzzzzzzz. Fair makes you want to frow up in yer cobweb, it does - speakin' of which, I've just trapped a nice juicy bluebottle so I'm orf for a snack. Yumicious!!"

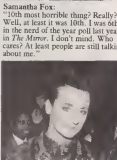


Madonna's beauty spot (4th)



Samantha Fox:
"10th most horrible thing? Really? Well, at least it was 10th. I was 6th in the nerd of the year poll last year in *The Mirror*. I don't mind. Who cares? At least people are still talking about me."

- 8 MORRISSEY
- 9 MARC ALMOND
- 10 ANDREW RIDGLEY
- 11 THE FAMINE IN AFRICA
- 12 THE SINKING OF DRUM
- 13 JOHN TAYLOR
- 14 RAMBO
- 15 SCHOOL
- 16 PETE BURNS (Dead Or Alive)
- 17 ARTHUR SCARGILL
- 18 BAGUSS
- 19 PAUL WELLER
- 20 SAMANTHA FOX



Boy George (3rd)

● Bubbling under: Zits; Black Type; Orville, Carrots; Meat; Bognes; Mexican earthquake; AIDS; Smelly socks; Bradford City fire; Work; Zippy; Dentists.



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New Shockwaves Styling Creme.

Adds all-day gloss and vitality to hair - even when re-styled.



WELLA

WHATEVER NEXT?

BEST SINGLE



1 "A VIEW TO A KILL"



2 "TAKE ON ME"



3 "INTO THE GROOVE"



4 "ELECTION DAY"



5 "DANCING IN THE STREETS"



6 "IF I WAS"



7 "EVERYBODY WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD"



8 "CRAZY FOR YOU"



9 "SHE SELLS SANCTUARY"



10 "ALIVE AND KICKING"

1 "A VIEW TO A KILL"

Duran Duran

John Taylor: "A View To A Kill" is the favourite thing I've committed to vinyl so I'm very pleased about this result."

Nick Rhodes: "I do think it's the best thing Duran have done so far. And 'Election Day', well, I'm just surprised it got so many votes at such a late stage."

Simon Le Bon: "Great. It deserves it. It's the best single we've written so far."

2 "TAKE ON ME" A-ha

3 "INTO THE GROOVE" Madonna

4 "ELECTION DAY" Arcadia

5 "DANCING IN THE STREETS" David Bowie/Mick Jagger

6 "IF I WAS" Midge Ure

7 "EVERYBODY WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD" Tears For Fears

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WORST

1 "THE POWER OF LOVE"

Jennifer Rush

2 "LIVE IS LIFE"

Opus

3 "TARZAN BOY"

Baltimore

4 "19"

Paul Hardcastle

5 "THE BOY WITH THE THORN IN HIS SIDE"

The Smiths

6 "GAMBLER"

Madonna

7 "LIPSTICK POWDER AND PAINT"

Shakin' Stevens

8 "ATMOSPHERE"

Russ Abbot

9 "FRANKIE"

Sister Sledge

10 "MY TOOT TOOT"

Denise Lasalle

Denise Lasalle

Denise Lasalle

Denise Lasalle

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1981

- "TAINTED LOVE" Soft Cell
- "VIENNA" Ultravox
- "STAND AND DELIVER" Adam & The Ants
- "SOLVENTIUM" OMD
- "LOVE ACTION" The Human League
- "EVERY LITTLE THING SHE DOES IS MAGIC" The Police
- "GHOST TOWN" The Specials
- "PRINCE CHARMING" Adam & The Ants
- "GIRLS ON FILM" Duran Duran
- "SHE'S GOT CLAWS" Gary Numan

1982

- "SAVE A PRAYER" Duran Duran
- "DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HURT ME" Culture Club
- "COME ON EILEEN" Devo
- "MAD WORLD" Tears For Fears
- "GHOSTS" Japan
- "HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF" Duran Duran
- "A TOWN CALLED MALICE" The Jam
- "LIFELINE" Spandau Ballet
- "GOODY TWO SHOES" Adam Ant
- "THE BITTEREST PILL" The Jam

1983

- "KARMA CHAMELEON" Culture Club
- "LION OF THE SNARE" Duran Duran
- "IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW" Duran Duran
- "THEY DON'T KNOW" Tracey Ullman
- "TRUE" Spandau Ballet
- "BLUE MONDAY" New Order
- "WHETHER I LAY MY HAT" Paul Young
- "FORBIDDEN COLOURS" Sylvain & Sebastian
- "COME LIVE WITH ME" Heaven 17
- "RED RED WINE" UB40

1984

- "THE WILD BOY" Duran Duran
- "CAROLESS WHISPER" George Michael
- "TWO TRIBES" Frankie Goes To Hollywood
- "RELEASIN'" Frankie Goes To Hollywood
- "RELAX" Frankie Goes To Hollywood
- "WAR SONG" Culture Club
- "PRIDE" U2
- "WAKE ME UP BEFORE YOU GO GO" Wham!
- "SMALL TOWN BOY" Brooks Butler
- "LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU WELL" Howard Jones



Curt Smith: "Seventh? That's not bad considering it was released near the beginning of the year. I suppose I would rather people had voted for 'Shout' - though that actually came out last year - and I'm very surprised that "I Believe" didn't come first."

8 "CRAZY FOR YOU" Madonna

9 "SHE SELLS SANCTUARY" The Cult

10 "ALIVE AND KICKING" Simple Minds

11 "TRAPPED" Colonel Abrams

12 "LEAN ON ME" Red Box

13 "DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ME" Simple Minds

14 "REBEL YELL" Billy Idol

15 "LOVE AND PRIDE" King

16 "THE POWER OF LOVE" Jennifer Rush

17 "SLAVE TO THE RHYTHM" Grace Jones

18 "KAYLEIGH" Marillion

19 "LIKE A VIRGIN" Madonna

20 "HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO" Bonnie Tyler

BEST LP

WORST



1 "LIKE A VIRGIN"



3 "ARENA"



5 "THE SECRET OF ASSOCIATION"



7 "NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC 5"



9 "HOUNDS OF LOVE"



2 "SONGS FROM THE BIG CHAIR"



4 "THE POWER STATION"



6 "MAKE IT BIG"



8 "CUPID & PSYCHE '85"



10 "GO WEST"

- 1 "LIKE A VIRGIN" Madonna
- 2 "SONGS FROM THE BIG CHAIR" Tears For Fears
Curt Smith: "That's good. We've beaten Wham! and Duran Duran. Someone must have a bit of taste - apart from whoever voted for the top album that is. I suppose we didn't win because we didn't show our belly buttons on the LP sleeve."
- 3 "ARENA" Duran Duran
Simon Le Bon: "That's pretty good considering it's been out for so long. And it's definitely not our best so that makes it even more incredible, really. Great."
Nick Rhodes: "I'm really pleased about 'Arena' - I'm not a great fan of live LPs but I think was good as those things go. As for Arcadia - surely that wasn't out in time for the poll? Just shows how loyal our fans are..."
- 4 "THE POWER STATION" The Power Station
John Taylor: "That's great! It's just a shame EMI didn't spend as much money promoting us as they did on Arcadia but I suppose that's showbiz. God, I'm going to get into trouble for that one!"
- 5 "THE SECRET OF ASSOCIATION" Paul Young
- 6 "MAKE IT BIG" Wham!
Andrew Ridgeley: "They're all last year's... well done, readers. 'Make It Big'... ah, I remember that - bloody good LP if I can recollect. I'm sure it had a modicum of success. I suppose they're all old 'cos there haven't been any good LPs this year."
- 7 "NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC 5" Various
Scritti Politti
- 8 "CUPID & PSYCHE '85" Scritti Politti
- 9 "HOUNDS OF LOVE" Kate Bush
- 10 "GO WEST" Go West
- 11 "BROTHERS IN ARMS" Dire Straits
- 12 "VITAL IDOL" Billy Idol
- 13 "THE SINGLES 81-85" Depeche Mode
- 14 "MISPLACED CHILDHOOD" Marillion
- 15 "SO RED THE ROSE" Arcadia
- 16 "NO JACKET REQUIRED" Phil Collins
- 17 "STEPS IN TIME" King
- 18 "THE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE" U2
- 19 "MEAT IS MURDER" The Smiths
- 20 "ONCE UPON A TIME" Simple Minds
- = "RECKLESS" Bryan Adams

- 1 "BORN IN THE USA" Bruce Springsteen
- 2 "LIKE A VIRGIN" Madonna
- 3 "HOUNDS OF LOVE" Kate Bush
- 4 "LIPSTICK POWDER AND PAINT" Shakin' Stevens
- 5 "MEAT IS MURDER" The Smiths
- 6 "SONGS FROM THE BIG CHAIR" Tears For Fears
- 7 "PARTY PARTY" Black Lace
- 8 "OUR FAVOURITE SHOP" The Style Council
- 9 "LOVE" The Cult
- 10 "STORIES OF JOHNNY" Marc Almond

1981

- 1 "DARE" The Human League
- 2 "DURAN DURAN" Duran Duran
- 3 "GHOST IN THE MACHINE" The Police
- 4 "DANCE" Gary Numan
- 5 "77" Madness
- 6 "BALE IN EDEN" Ultravox
- 7 "ANthem" Tinchy
- 8 "PRINCE CHARMING" Adam & The Ants
- 9 "PRESENT ARMS" UB40
- 10 "ARCHITECTURE AND MORALITY" DMU

1982

- 1 "RIG" Duran Duran
- 2 "THE KIDS FROM FAME" The Kids From Fame
- 3 "L'ESCEON OF LOVE" ABC
- 4 "UPSTAIRS AT ERIC'S" Yazoo
- 5 "FRIEND OR FOE" Adam Ant
- 6 "THE GIFT" The Jam
- 7 "TOO EYE-AY" Dexys Midnight Runners
- 8 "FELICIAN WEST" Barbra Streisand
- 9 "RISING TO BE GLIVER" Culture Club
- 10 "COMPLETE MADNESS" Madness

1983

- 1 "FANTASTIC" Wham!
- 2 "COLOUR BY NUMBERS" Culture Club
- 3 "THRILLER" Michael Jackson
- 4 "TRIKE" Spandau Ballet
- 5 "LET'S DANCE" David Bowie
- 6 "WAR 'U"
- 7 "THE LUXURY GAP" Heaven 17
- 8 "THE HURTING" Tears For Fears
- 9 "THE CROSSING" Big Country
- 10 "SYNCHRONICITY" The Police

1984

- 1 "SEVEN AND THE RAGGED TIGER" Duran Duran
- 2 "PARADE" Spandau Ballet
- 3 "HUMAN RACING" Na Kershaw
- 4 "HUMAN LIE" Howard Jones
- 5 "WELCOME TO THE PLEASUREDOME" Frankie Goes To Hollywood
- 6 "WAKING UP WITH THE HOUSE ON FIRE" Culture Club
- 7 "THE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE" U2
- 8 "PURPLE RAIN" Prince
- 9 "MAKE IT BIG" Wham!
- 10 "ARENA" Duran Duran

Blah Blah Blah
 Funny Thing happened this morning
 Blah Waffle Blah never run on time Blah Waffle
 Blah supper with Elsie's Mum Blah Blah
 Best Blah Blah crumble rhubarb Blah
 Blurb Blah crippling mortgage rates Blurb
 Blah Blah sweet peas ruined
 Blah Blah Nigel's maths teacher
 incredible woman Blah
 Waffle



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Hallo miserymatters! Ever woken up with that Grumps-Ain't-Life-A-Swizzle... And-No-Mistake-feeling? No... Well, that's probably because you've never had your **Letters** section snipped in half because the so-called "Ed" wants to fill up "his" mag with lots of reader's poll results which are all a complete swizzle anyway. (I mean, what happened to literally quereither-ot notes for Elaine Paige and Barbara "Babs" Dickson in the "most promising" section and why have the multifarious talents of Gar(r)ly "meester moosek" Lux - not to mention Pookah Makes Three - been so scandalously overlooked, might I ask? In fact the only result that seems to make any sense at all is Ms Bonnie "Frightwig" Tyler's inclusion in the all-time-great-chauteuses chart.) Plus I'm expected to do **Get Smart** this issue as well, not to mention the impending doom of the so-called "festive" season which I've got to spend with the Perkins admiring the toilet roll cover which Mrs P. is crocheting me for a Christmas present. Fa de ruddy is it all I can say - but chin up, dearies, 1986 will probably be even worse...

Dear Black Type,

As a public service, I have scanned all your Letters pages for the year '1985' and have made a Top 30 chart of the characters most mentioned in your replies. They are as follows:

- 1) Annela Rice
- 2) Bagnuss
- 3) Cecil the Comet
- 4) Una Stubbs (latterly known as Dame Una Nescafe)
- 5) Ms Vikki Watson ("the flower of English song")
- 6) Delia Smith ("1001 Jolly Nice Things To Eat")
- 7) Roland Orzabal (and a kangaroo)
- 8) Ronald McDonald
- 9) Maggie Philbin
- 10) Russ "prisoner of rock'n'roll" Abbot
- 11) Bruce "oh what an atmosphere" Springsteen
- 12) Simon le Bon (and a yachting cap full of spaghetti)
- 13) Doc, Jane and Freddy
- 14) "Winsome" Wincey Willis ("groovin' to the latest pop vids")
- 15) Jimmy Krinke
- 16) Bonnie Tyler
- 17) Princess Michael O'Kent
- 18) "Sir" Barbara Cardland
- 19) Michael den Barres
- 20) A tie between Prince, Cliff "Sir Clifford" Richard, Bilbo Baggins, David Hunter from Crossroads and the Queen Mother.

What conclusions can we draw from this?
Sean Taylor (*No Relation I Assure You*), Winchester.

This list proves, if nothing else, that we are all fallible. Whatever did I see in that brazen hussie, Annela "can't you run any faster than that, you pathetic excuse for a cameraman" Rice who, last time she popped up on my television screen was trading loose-arse and unattractive innuendos with a slipper-tongued conjurer in a toupee i.e. Paul Daniels? Grooooo! Apart from that, your chart seems



WRITE TO: SMASH HITS, 52-55 CANNABY STREET, LONDON W1V 1PF
THE BEST LETTER GETS A £10 RECORD TOKEN

pretty sound (give or take a B. Springsteen or two).

Dear Get Smart,

Next year I am emigrating to Australia with my family. I'm not really looking forward to this but it would cheer me up if you could assure me that they don't have any horrible things like Orville in Australia. Is this the case? Jo, Ipswich

Oh crumbe o'melancholy!! Don't know quite how to break this to you, ma petite, but "down under", as they say, they are plagued with a television punk who is almost exactly as disturbing as Orville apart from the fact that he doesn't wear nappies. His name is Ossie Ostrich and he is pink and his manipulator Darryl Somers has a fearsome hairstyle and they are never off the telly and they make very subversive records indeed. Here is a forecast of what you are in for. Sorry about that.



Dear Black Type,

If your magazine says one more thing against Nik Kershaw, I assure you there will be trouble. I expect everyone gets fed up with jokes about his height, but when you say he is boring, that's the limit. If comments like this continue, I shall send my brother round to duff you up.

A Person Who Loves Nik Kershaw, Ipswich.

Dear Nik "Irritating Insect" Kershaw,

I am writing to answer the comment you made in *Smash Hits* (December 4), I quote:
"Would it matter if I said I

recorded this song standing up in a bucket of water?"

Well, AKCHEWWWELLY, yes it bloomin' would. Because then, hopefully, you would drown and stop making completely pathetic songs like you do already. Jo, I hate Blakona and that Kershaw Mike? Fullerton, Iford, Essex.

CRUMBS! Isn't this jolly? Oh well, takes all sorts, don't it...?

Dear Get Smart,

The other night on *EastEnders* (the episode where Angie stole Den's car to go to the darts match) they played a song on the juke box in the Queen Vic that was fantastic - but I've no idea what it was. Have you Tina, Weymouth.

Even though I "missed" the episode in question, I can categorically state that the record played was something by Dire Straits - 'cos that's all they have on the ruddy juke box in *EastEnders* for some reason.

Dear One They Call Black Type,

Pop pip! Cecil the Comet here! Long time no see, dear sirs. As I come a-blasting and a-streaking through the starry night, dodging the glowering shonders and the satellites, I wonder how the earth is faring up in 1986. Well, one thing's for certain. I'm very hungry. Oh, heed my plight - I am condemned to wander space with an empty stomach for eternity! I only ever get a chance to grab a bite once every 75 years and last time I was passing every single McDonald's was ruddy well closed!

I fancy a nosh like crazy. Please supply it, my dear Mr Type, or I shall drop bacteria on the earth and everyone like you will die a very spooky and cosmic death. Cecil The Comet, Hovering Somewhere Over Weston-Super-Mare.

I am reliably informed by a team of astro-scientists that comets are vegetarians and would not, therefore, ever be likely to visit a McDonald's unless they were just dropping in for some "French Fries" which seems unlikely

when Twiggies are now available from all good grocery stores and are so much more nourishing and tasty; thus I conclude that your letter is nothing more than a cheap hoax. But just in case it is not, I suppose you'd better have a £10 record token - I wouldn't want the spooky and cosmic death of everyone like me on my conscience, after all (but if you've got any bacteria to spare whilst zooking over the Perkins household, please feel free to unload it...)

Dear Get Smart,

I saw a concert of Darryl Hall and John Oates on the TV recently and thought they were brilliant but I can never find them in *Smash Hits*. Could you please print a photograph? Cheryl, Frowbridge.

Could I please print a photograph? Why, of course, I may. Printing photographs is my business, Cheryl, and so here, just for you, is a snap of some bloke called Dave and a dog. Anything to oblige!



Dear Get Smart,

Could you please, please, please give me any information on the well-lancable Steve Blackall who presents *Knock Your Block Off* on Saturday mornings? KYBO Fan, Ipswich.

No.

Dear Black Type, Frauds, Layabouts etc.

May I just say that there have been one or two things munging around my designer brain? Well, only one thing, actualleeee, and it is this: Why do people on TV only pour themselves half a cup of tea? Richard Robinson. No fixed abode. P.S. Isn't it good to have George "I'm Your Manlow" Michael back again?

CRUMBS! Cooo-err, that's a sticky one and NO mistake! Why DO people on TV only pour themselves half a cup of tea? A nation is fooled... But never mind our blimney mes petits enfants, you can ponder that one whilst carrying out your annual "festive" chores i.e. thanking stinky Uncle Clive for the Mister Men jigsaw puzzle and the 50p Boots gift voucher (slightly soiled), reading out yet another side-splitting "joke" from a cracker i.e. "Q: What is the world's sleepest mountain? A: Mount Everest (*Ever Rest?*)". etc. Ho ho. And so until Santa's strutted his stuff down the rock'n'roll chimney once more, it is... .lyeeccccccccccccccccc!

FEED THE WORLD



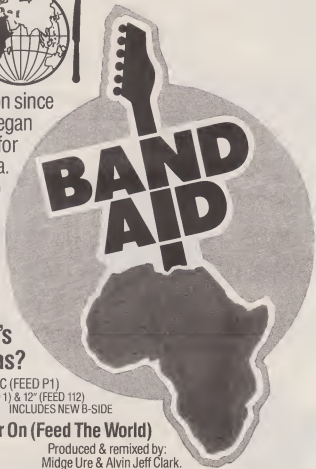
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ALBUM AND CASSETTE

TUBE 1
Album

TUBE K1
Cassette



STARBLIND

THE 6th ANNUAL

MOST PROMISING NEW ACT

- 1 A-HA
- 2 ARCADIA
Simon le Bon: "I like this one. It's good fun being promising. No, I don't think we'll be doing much next year, not with me boat the Duran LP and tour. But that's not to say it won't happen again ever." John Taylor: "Does anybody know how long Billy Idol's been around? Arcadia? Better ask Nick about that one!" Nick Rhodes: "I suppose we do qualify. It's a bit weird thinking about it, being in a 'promising new group', but it is quite nice, quite refreshing."
- 3 RED BOX
Julian Close (Red Box): "That's quite flattering. Who came above us? Arcadia? Well, they're hardly a new act, are they?"
- 4 FIVE STAR
Deniece (5-Star): "That's nice. A-ha were the best, were they? I like their singer - there's something about his eyes, they've got so much... ." (Goes all dreamy for ages).

5 BILLY IDOL



- 6 GO WEST
- 7 SIMPLY RED
- 8 THE COMMUNARDS
- 9 KING



10 THE POWER STATION

BIGGEST PRAT OF THE YEAR

- 1 GEORGE MICHAEL
- 2 BOY GEORGE
- 3 MARGARET THATCHER
- 4 PRINCE
- 5 ANDREW RIDGELEY
- 6 SIMON LE BON
Simon le Bon: "Last year I won, dadn't I? Well, I'm absolutely disgusted. Still, 6th isn't that bad, I suppose. At least I'm keeping my end up. But what? I beat Arthur Scargill? That's not fair!"
- 7 ARTHUR SCARGILL
- 8 JONATHAN KING
- 9 MADONNA
- 10 MORRISSEY
- 11 MARC ALMOND
- 12 PAUL WELDER
- 13 BOB GELDOF
- 14 RAMBO
- 15 PETE BURNS
- 16 TERRY WOGAN
- 17 MARILYN
- 18 PAUL KING
- 19 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
- 20 NEIL KINNOCK

John Taylor: "With all these politicians around, why vote for musicians?"

Neil Kinnock: "The *Smash Hits* Poll confirms what young women and men tell me everywhere - they completely reject Mrs Thatcher and her policies. A 16 year old girl put it in a nutshell when she said to me recently: 'Mrs Thatcher is all past and no future.' I think young people want realistic policies, not vague hopes or pious lectures. That's why Mrs Thatcher is a big switch off for them - and a lot of older people too."

● Bubbling under: Sean Pena; Victoria Gillick; Steve Wright; P.W. Botha; Baggus; Samantha Fox; Roland Rat; Jeffrey Archer; Stephen 'AJ' Duffy

...al (A-Ha): Making it in England does mean a lot because we're going to live here. But we didn't expect to do it with one record."



PREVIOUS YEARS WINNERS

SMOT PROGRAM NEW ACT

- 1981**
- 1 Alice's Images
 - 2 Soft Cell
 - 3 Banquet One Hundred
 - 4 Fun Boy 3
 - 5 U2
 - 6 Heaven 17
 - 7 Modern Romance
 - 8 How Wow Wow
 - 9 ABC
 - 10 Orange Juice

- 1982**
- 1 Team For Feet
 - 2 Culture Club
 - 3 Musical Youth
 - 4 Wham!
 - 5 Talk Talk
 - 6 Cars Cava
 - 7 Blancmange
 - 8 Blue Zoo
 - 9 Orange Juice
 - 10 Bushman

- 1983**
- 1 Howard Jones
 - 2 The Lotus Eaters
 - 3 Menlyn
 - 4 The Alarm
 - 5 Lene Lovace
 - 6 Roman Holiday
 - 7 Men Without Hats
 - 8 Paul Young
 - 9 Big Country
 - 10 Passion Puppets

- 1984**
- 1 Juice Lennon
 - 2 Brexiti Beat
 - 3 Frankie Goes To Hollywood
 - 4 Alphaville
 - 5 John Waite
 - 6 Prince
 - 7 Animal Nightlife
 - 8 Sade
 - 9 King
 - 10 Lloyd Cole & The Communion

BIGGEST PRIZES OF THE YEAR

- 1983**
- 1 Black Lace
 - 2 Darren Dayan
 - 3 Kingpin
 - 4 Lush
 - 5 Boy George
 - 6 Paul Weller
 - 7 Ryan Paris
 - 8 King Katt
 - 9 Simon Le Bon
 - 10 Twisted Sister

- 1984**
- 1 Boy George
 - 2 George Michael
 - 3 Black Lace
 - 4 Simon Le Bon
 - 5 Neil Young (Guns)
 - 6 Arthur Scargill
 - 7 Mike Read
 - 8 Frankie Goes To Hollywood
 - 9 Divine
 - 10 Moustrey

LEAST PROMISING NEW ACT

1 ARCADIA

Nick Rhodes: "Well yes, I suppose we're that as well because we won't be around next year."

2 THE COMMUNARDS

3 RED BOX

Julian Close (Red Box): "Well, how many new acts of '85 were there? I reckon you've just put us in there to make up the numbers."

4 SIMPLY RED

5 EIGHTH WONDER

6 OPUS

7 JENNIFER RUSH

8 THE DREAM

9 ACADEMY

10 FIVE STAR

Deniece (5 Star): "Oh well, it's up to people to be truthful, I suppose."

11 THE POWER

STATION



The Communards (2nd)

OLD CODGER'S ALMANAC

As a world famous soothsayer, clairvoyant and fortune-telling sort of geezer, people are always coming up to me and saying "Ello, Old Codger, strike a light me old china 'sbin a birrova glum old year, 1985, wot wiv me dicky back and the bleedin' militant tendency, ain't it, so tell us, Old Codger, wot does ver new year i.e. 1986 have in store?" Well, I've done me jiggery-pokery with me tea leaves and bits of seaweed and all that lark and so here are me **PREDICTIONS FOR 1986:**

- ¶ Bono and the geezers from **U2** will be in Britain's Brightest Pop Magazine
- ¶ There will be lots of snooker on the telly
- ¶ Three blokes from Norway called **A-ha** will be involved in a pop magazine interview situation
- ¶ Margaret Thatcher will get cross about something or other
- ¶ **Tears For Fears** will make an appearance in a pop journal
- ¶ It will rain in Norfolk
- ¶ A soul singer from America called **Stevie Wonder** will be talking exclusively to the Brightest Pop Magazine in Britain
- ¶ Prince Charles and his missus will pay a visit to somewhere hot
- ¶ Britain's Brightest Rock 'n' Roll Read will present their **Review Of 1985**.
- ¶ Russ Abbot with join The Smiths. . .ob, sorry, me crystal ball's gone wonky. . .toodle-ooo. . .

The Old Codger has spoken! Check out his predictions in

THE **SMASH HITS** Co. Ltd.

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 KATE BUSH "RUNNING UP THAT HILL (A DEAL WITH GOD)" · UB40 (GUEST VOCALS CHRISSE HYNDE) "I GOT YOU BABE"
 MADNESS "UNCLE SAM" · MARILLION "LAVENDER" · BRYAN ADAMS & TINA TURNER "IT'S ONLY LOVE"
 PET SHOP BOYS "WEST END GIRLS" · THOMPSON TWINS "KING FOR A DAY" · SIMPLE MINDS "ALIVE AND KICKING"
 DEPECHE MODE "IT'S CALLED A HEART" · JAKI GRAHAM & DAVID GRANT "MATED" · GARY MOORE "EMPTY ROOMS"
 THE CULT "REVOLUTION" · BALTIMORA "TARZAN BOY" · IAN DURY "PROFOUNDLY IN LOVE WITH PANDORA"
 CLIFF RICHARD "SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL" · UB40 "DON'T BREAK MY HEART" · ARCADIA "ELECTION DAY"



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AVAILABLE AT MOST GOOD MUSIC STORES

BUT HOW DID

PHOTO: LPI



MIDGE URE

BEST

Group Tears For Fears
Male Singer Ian McCulloch
Female Singer Kate Bush
Single "Running Up That Hill"
 Kate Bush
LP "The Dream Of The Blue Turtles" Sting/Hounds Of Love
 Kate Bush
Videos "If I Was" Me
Music Programme Top Of The Pops (well, it used to be good)
Non Music Programme EastEnders
DJ I don't think there is such a thing
Film Breakfast's Millions
TV Ad Brylcreem
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person Peter, the bloke who works in Jones clothes shop on London's King's Road
Haircut Bob Geldof
New Act The Waterboys
Most Fascinating Person Princess Di
All Round Human Being A good one

PHOTO: LPI



SIMON LE BON

BEST

Group Canto De Puentes Andros (from Chile)
Male Singer Sting
Female Singer Annie Lennox
Single "Don't Break My Heart" UB40
LP "Hounds Of Love" Kate Bush
 "The Dream Of The Blue Turtles" Sting
Videos "Cry" Godley and Cream
Music Programme Max Headroom
Non Music Programme Spring Heeled
DJ Peter Powell
Film Seventy Hills Cap
TV Ad The Anti-bur ad (even though it's only on the cinema)
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person Grace Jones
Haircut Tina Turner's bald wig
New Act Duran Duran
Most Fascinating Person "Pebbles" (Yasmin)
All Round Human Being Jacques Cousteau

PHOTO: LPI



ANDREW RIDGELEY

BEST

Group Yip Yip The Cowboy
Male Singer John and Dave from Wham!
Female Singer Kim Te Kanawa
Single "Slow To The Rhythm" Grace Jones
LP "Here We Go, Yeah, Let's Go Crazy Apehit Banana" Yip Yip The Cowboy
Videos "Material Girl" Madonna
Music Programme Panorama
Non Music Programme Edge Of Darkness/Only Fools And Horses
DJ Steve Wright
TV Ad Akai
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person Andrew Ridgeley
Haircut Dave from Wham!
New Act Yip Yip The Cowboy
Most Fascinating Person Who's a nice, snoggy, warm, teary tart? I know... put "my current girlfriend"
All Round Human Being Dr F R, Barkers

PHOTO: LPI



CURT SMITH

BEST

Group The Blue Nile/Prefab Sprout
Male Singer Paddy McAloon (Prefab Sprout)
Female Singer Alison Moyet
Single "When Love Breaks Down" Prefab Sprout
LP "The Adventurers"
Videos "Dancing In The Street"
Music Programme None of them are any good
Non Music Programme The Young Ones/EastEnders
DJ Steve Wright
Film The Dresser
TV Ad Radio Rentals (with Max Headroom)
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person David Bowie
Haircut Julian Claxton (Red Box)
New Act The Adventurers
Most Fascinating Person My wife Lynne (or I get killed)
All Round Human Being No-one's perfect

PHOTO: LPI



JOHN TAYLOR

BEST

Group Wham!
Male Singer Lisa Dalbello
Single "Duet" Propaganda
LP "A Secret Wish" Propaganda
Videos "Boys Of Summer" Don Henley
Music Programme Potentially Live Aid
Non Music Programme Miami Vice/Dallas
DJ Peter Powell
Film Amadeus
TV Ad Pepsi-Cola (in the desert)
Event Of '85 Me finally seeing Amadeus
Dressed Person John
Haircut The Bob Geldof "Haircut" I haven't got time 'haircut'
New Act I like the look of Patsy Kensit
Most Fascinating Person Who's on the cover of Pansy Wop? Give me that!
All Round Human Being Bob Geldof - don't know why

WORST

Group The Smiths (if I don't mind the group, but Morrissey's a prat)
Male Singer Morrissey
Female Singer Jennifer
Single "Power Of Love" Jennifer Rush
LP Videos "If I Was" (me again)
Music Programme Top Of The Pops (because it slipped a bit last year)
Non Music Programme Albon
Event Of '85 Dave Doubledecks
Film Adventurers - (it cost \$40 million to make and it's awful)
TV Ad D T V
Event Of '85 The new Jerry's album
Haircut Bob Geldof
New Act Eighth Wonder
Most Thing In The World Critics
Prat Me on a bad day

WORST

Group Flying Pickets
Male Singer Marc Almond
Female Singer Pia Zadora
Single "Taxi On My" A-ha
LP W A S P's LP
Videos "When It Rains" Jermaine Jackson
Music Programme TX
Non Music Programme EastEnders
DJ There are loads
Film Rambo
TV Ad Kellogg's "tasty, tasty, very very tasty"
Event Of '85 "Super Concert One"
Worst Dressed Person Molly Crisp
Haircut Paul Weller
New Act Paul Handcastle
Most Thing In The World John Buse's column in The Mirror
Prat Arthur Scargill

WORST

Group That has to be Manlyx. He is not a person - he's more of a group of things.
Male Singer Roland Orzabal (the worst name ever inflicted on popular music)
Female Singer Roland Orzabal
Single "Head Over Heels"
Tears For Fears
LP Have The Fine Young Cannibals made one? Yes? Well put that, then
Videos "Head Over Heels"
Tears For Fears
Music Programme No Limits
Thunderdome Give My Regards To Broad Street
TV Ad Any Tears For Fears ads
Event Of '85 Curt Smith dragging Roland Orzabal round the world to success
Worst Dressed Person Roland Orzabal
Haircut Roland Orzabal! And can't we change it to "Haircut Most Open To Ridicule"?
New Act Tears For Fears
Most Thing In The World 1985 (and Roland Orzabal)
Prat Curt Smith for being linked with Roland Orzabal

WORST

Group The Power Station
Male Singer Simon Is Bon
Female Singer Madonna
Single "Ecstasy Day" Arcadia
LP "The Power Station" The Power Station
Videos "Jesse" Julian Lennon
Music Programme Top Of The Pops
Non Music Programme Buissey
DJ Steve Wright
Film Rambo
TV Ad Listerine (The one with the dragon and princess)
Event Of '85 Gorbatchev/Keagan-Murmet
Worst Dressed Person Bob Geldof
Haircut Paul King
New Act Paul Handcastle
Most Thing In The World Politics
Prat Me, because Andrew Ridgeley says so

WORST

Group Duran Duran
Male Singer Broccoli, eggs I mean Lionel
Female Singer Ugly ones
Single Jennifer Rush
LP I hear "Boomer in the USA" once more
Videos Any Lee Roth
Music Programme Unfortunately
Non Music Programme Anything British
DJ Peter Powell
Film Rambo/Gorhamond
TV Ad Any US ads for washing up liquid
Event Of '85 "Super Concert One"
Worst Dressed Person Paul Weller, sorry Paul - I'm sure the feeling's mutual
Haircut Yasmin blond Duran
New Act The rest of Eighth Wonder
Most Thing In The World Drum Prat Jonathan King because of his 10 reasons not to buy the Band Aid record

THEY VOTE?

Photo: Paul Gooch



JANICE LONG
BEST

Group The Cult/Echo & The Bunnymen
Male Singer Ian Anthony Jan McColloch
Female Singer Katrina from The Sweeter Family
Single "She Sells Sanctuary"
The Cult
LP "Lovers" The Cult/
"Phantasmagoria" The Damned
Video "Bring On The Dancing
Horses," Echo & The Bunnymen
Music Programme
Top Of The Pops
Non Music Programme *Brookside*
DJ Me, of course
File Letter To Brothrow
TV Ad I don't watch much TV, so
I've got no idea
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person
Sade/Dave Vanian
Haircut Billy Duffy (The Cult)
New Act Bazooka And The Angels/
Cactus World News/The
Scarrows/Rufesque
Most Fasciable Person John
Red (how you're embarrassed
John), a made of man
All Round Human Being
Neilson and Wraye Marzella



NIK KERSHAW
BEST

Group Go West
Male Singer Peter Cox (Go West)
Female Singer Aretha Franklin
Single "Sax To The Rhythm"
Gracie Jones
LP "Dream Of The Blue Turtles"
Sling
Video "Money For Nothing" Dire
Straits
Music Programme *The Tube*
(though I haven't seen it for ages)
Non Music Programme *Alias*
Smith And Jones
DJ Dave Lee Travis
File *Spinal Tap*
TV Ad Radio Rentals (with Max
Headroom)
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person Gracie Jones
Haircut Basil Brush
New Act The Adventurers
Most Fasciable Person Jessica
Lange
All Round Human Being There's
no such thing



NICK RHODES
BEST

Group The Velvet Underground
Male Singer Prince
Female Singer Grace Jones
Single "Cloudusting" Kate Bush
LP "United States Parts 1-5"
Laure Anderson
Video "Slave To The Rhythm"
Grace Jones
Music Programme *The Tube*
Non Music Programme *Aretha*
DJ Peter Powell
File *Kiss Of The Spiderwoman*
TV Ad *Chanel*
Event Of '85 Live Aid
Dressed Person My Christmas
tree
Haircut Ronald Reagan
New Act Pretab Sprout
Most Fasciable Person My wife
All Round Human Being My mum



GIAN SAMMARCO
BEST

Group The Care
Male Singer Billy Bragg
Female Singer Annie Lennox
Single
"In Between Days" The Care
LP "Meat Is Murder" The Smiths
Video
"Leaving The Alien" David Bowie
Music Programme
Max Headroom
Non Music Programme
The Young Ones
DJ Paul Gambaccini (he's more
convincing than me!)
File 1984
TV Ad KP Nuts "nibbly" one with
King 4000
Event Of '85 For me, the filming
of *The Secret Diary Of Adrian
Mole*
Dressed Person Robert Smith
Haircut My brother's spiky haircut
New Act Pini Code
Most Fasciable Person
My girlfriend (but I'm not naming her)
All Round Human Being
Morrissey (he's so miserable)



ADE EDMONSON
BEST

Group Squeeze
Male Singer There isn't one --
women have much better voices
Female Singer Alison Moyet
Single "Sun City" Artists Against
Apartheid
LP "Be Yourself Tonight"
Eurythmics
Video "Slave To The Rhythm"
Grace Jones
Music Programme *The Tube/Top
Of The Pops*
Non Music Programme *Shove Off*
DJ Steve Wright (at least he's
bearable)
File *Witness*
TV Ad The British Telecom one
with the slott
Event Of '85 It's too obvious to
say Live Aid
Dressed Person Me
Haircut Willie Thorn, the half-bald
snooker player
New Act Pretab Sprout
Most Fasciable Person Me or my
wife (Jennifer Saunders)
All Round Human Being Don't
think there are any

WORST

Group RED/Speed/Chicago/agore/fore-
ign/Asize
Male Singer Orville (Pass me the
Passel)
Female Singer Hilda Ogden
Single Come round to my office,
I've a box full
LP Another box full
Video "Stay With Me"
Eighth Wonder
Music Programme *No Limits*
Non Music Programme
All those stupid quiz shows
DJ Me, of course
File I only see films I like
TV Ad I don't watch much TV
Event Of '85
Non-event? My love life
Dressed Person
Anyone wearing a fur coat
Haircut Arthur Scargill
New Act Eighth Wonder
Most Thing In The World Ants/
Olives/Victoria Gallick
Prat Victoria Gallick

WORST

Group Huey Lewis
Male Singer Pauli Hardcastle
Female Singer Jennifer Rush
Single "I"
LP Any Bruce Springsteen LP
Video Motley Crue
Music Programme *Solid Gold*
(America)
Non Music Programme *The Price*
DJ Too numerous
File *Bambo*
TV Ad Most American
commercials
Event Of '85 Duran Durin
Dressed Person Cynthia
Laufer
Haircut Arthur Scargill
Most Thing In The World Heavy
metal
Prat Arthur Scargill

WORST

Group Wham!
Male Singer Perry Como
Female Singer Madonna (she's
like an old fart)
Single "All Night Holiday"
Passé Abit
LP "Maximum Security" Alan Sex
Head (I like it but I know it's
awful music)
Video "Wham!" in China
Music Programme
Top Of The Pops
Non Music Programme
Sportsnight! (I can't stand sport)
DJ Peter Powell
File *They Served Hitler's Brain*
TV Ad Any washing powder ads
Event Of '85 I was supposed to
open a telephone box in Leicester
but I never happened
Dressed Person Andrew
Ridgely (those tartan jackets)
Haircut Skinheads
New Act Acadia
Most Thing In The World Waking
up to find a spider in my mouth
it's happened a couple of
times
Prat Margaret Thatcher

WORST

Group Jesus & Mary Chain
Male Singer Paul King
Female Singer Sade (technically she's
good, but her voice is so
dull)
Single "Dancing In The Street"
David Bowie/Mick Jagger
LP Can't Think of a
Video The one with Paul King
Music Programme Any one with
DJ Mike Read
Non Music Programme *Full House*
LP Can't Think of a
File 1984 (I fell asleep after ten
minutes)
TV Ad G T V
Event Of '85 I can't even
think of an event
Dressed Person Me at the
weekends
Haircut Mike Read/Paul King
New Act Lord knows!
Most Thing In The World
Annoying TV programmes
Prat Simon Bates (he's sucking)

SMASH HITS

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CROSSWORD

● Answers from page 29

ACROSS: 1 Don't (Mess With
Dr Dream); 4 Motown; 7 (Simpl)
EMI (nd); 8 'Nada'; 9 Midge
Lay; 10 (David) Bowie; 11
Bergerac; 13 (David) Essex; 14
'Gold'; 15 King, 16 (Little)
Bonny; 17 Bananabee; 19
(The) Horn; 20 (East Of)
Eden; 21 Aretha (Franklin); 23
Aha; 24 'The Lebanon'
DOWN: 1 Don't Break My
Heart; 2 'This Is England'; 3
(The A) Team; 4 Minder; 5
'Time'; 6 (William, II) Was
Really Nothing; 12 Eagle; 16
(Tog) Boat; 17 (Eve) Baweth
(I) Tobe; 18 Single (Lulu); 21
Abba; 22 (Dame) Edna
(Everage)

Oh hello! Guess what —
we haven't got a Star
Teaser this 'ish' so, er,
here instead is a
'festive' drawing for you
to cut out 'n' keep...



Art by Mike Tucker of The Sweeney.
COURTESY DAVY GAY

Illustration by Mr. Nebbett

JUST SEVENTEEN

SKIN TIGHT

Clothes that cling in
all the right places

I'LL ALL COME OUT IN THE WASH

A guide to temporary
hair colours

GO WEST

Go round the world

IS YOUR BOYFRIEND THE FACE OF '86?

Enter him in our
competition and you'll
both win prizes

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Mmmmm. Flex those pectorals! The weedy one in the middle is, of course, **Pete Burns**, who's lucky enough to find himself in the new book **Dead Or Alive** by Jo-Anne Greene (£3.50, Bobcat). It jumbles up lots of old interviews, pulls out all the outrageous quotes like: "I'm dying to have 'Pete Burns In Nude Romp With 65 Sailors' on the front cover of *The News Of The World*", and is very tacky indeed.



at the moment, can you? Ed. It's when everybody pigs themselves on turkey and Quality Street and then sits around asking each other questions from all the "trivial" quiz books that Aunt Maud give them. There's a couple here. **Now That's What I Call Music Mastermind** by Ashley Abram (Virgin, £2.99) is packed with lots and lots of rather uninteresting turgid questions, while **Rock And Pop Brain Busters** by John Tabler (Zomba, £2.50) is a tiny bit better, but full of endless lists of incredibly obscure "posers" from the very dark mists of pop history. **Zzzzzzz...**



● Who is Howard Jones? Most people think he's that pop star bloke who's always looking rather gerbil-like and normal but according to Helen Fitzgerald, who wrote **Howard Jones** (Bobcat, £3.95), he's either "a timid gerbil" or "just a normal person". To discover which of the two, she makes a brave attempt to gain an "insight" into the man's mind and eventually plumps for the latter. And the book is absolutely plastered with vaguely familiar pictures of the man looking, erm, rather gerbil-like and normal



● Everyone knows that **Tina Turner** is a granny and that, as grannies go, she's still got bundles of energy. And everyone knows that she's got very unruly hair. But not quite everybody knows that when she was young she had to pick cotton in the fields of Tennessee, that her real name is Ann Bullock, or that her ex-husband, the "legendary" guitarist Ike Turner, used to beat her black and blue – and this is where Bart Mills' **Tina** (NEJ) comes in handy. It's a respectful little biography packed with essential information on the fizzing OAP of soul – and a snip at £1.95.



● Ever head of a Grendel? No! Well, apparently it's a disgusting green cocktail much beloved by members of Marillion, and the full list of ingredients is given by Carol Clerk in **Marillion in Words and Pictures** (Bobcat, £3.50). Most of the time though she just goes a bit dreamy over fish, refusing to hear a word said against him and trying to look beyond the "fun-loving tippler" into the secrets of his "commented artist's" soul. Oh dear. Never mind, you can always look at all those photos from the "old days" with fish in cosmic make-up.

THE

THE COONIES

THE 14th issue of the Black 'n' Board magazine has just arrived at the

Black 'n' Board magazine. This new publication is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the Black 'n' Board magazine. It is a quarterly magazine that is published by the Black 'n' Board magazine. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the Black 'n' Board magazine.

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GOONIES



THE BEST AND WORST OF CHRISTMAS T.V.

BY TOM HIBBERT

Friday December 20

The Tube Christmas Special (C4): Simple Minds, Echo & The Bunnymen, Ultramarine, Peter Cook

Saturday December 21

2-3-1 (TV): Saturn as the staid mechanical dastard comes on dressed in Santa Claws as the Brian Rogers Connection covets web writers on their heads! **Eric Radd** (TV): V long film about American comrades reading books, starring Warren Beatty

Sunday December 22

Be They Know It's Christmas! (BBC1): Save Bob in Africa. **Allison Moyet Jazz Special** (BBC2): All goes respectable. **The French Lieutenant's Woman** (BBC2): Preposterous, dull "spooring" one starring Henry Strada and Jeremy "too-what-a-diff!" Ivins. **Christmas Bulettes** (TV): Xmas wouldn't be Xmas without a bit of bulgji!

Monday December 23

Tess (BBC2): Film of Thomas Hardy's literary classic directed by a Polish (what? Roman Polish?) and introducing a rearing beauty (Natalia Kinski)

Christmas Eve

Kenny Everett's Christmas Special (BBC1): The least funny man in the world puts on some more fake bosoms. **Charles and Diana, A Working Year** (BBC2): Yawny Royal stuff. **Peter Mc-Tell** (BBC2): Cartoon film about rabbits. **Close Encounters Of The Third Kind (Special Version)** (TV): Crystalball film about nice people from outer space. **The Painter Sisters In Paris** (C4): "Jump", "Slow Hand" etc. live on stage

Christmas Day

Neil Edmunds' Live Live Christmas Show (BBC1): The usual "zany" live one.

Top Of The Pops (BBC1): What a year it's been, ah, pop chum! **HM The Queen** (BBC1/BBC2/TV/C4): Christmas greetings from a housewife (Diana, BBC2); Nicky Kattler's "sounded film ever" is, ah, and French. **Citizen Kane!** (BBC1): Citizen Kane! film masterpiece about power and corruption with lotsa "wild" camera angles. **Top Pop Videos '88** (TV): Year best - Jim Davidson (ah NO!) **Hoosieraker!** Roger Moore a 007 in outer space. Duff James Bond film. **Gregory's Girl** (ITV): Gentle comedy film about Scottish school "kids" introducing a ravishing beauty (Clare Grogan).

Boxing Day

The Great Escape (BBC1): World War II prison camp film featuring Steve McQueen on a motorcycle and Richard Attenborough getting shot by the Germans. Hurrah! **Tenko Reunion** (BBC1): World War II prison camp drama. The survivors get together for a slash. **Strangers On A Train** (BBC1): Brilliant Hitchcock thriller about two blasé who've devised a perfect murder... or have they? **Superman II** (TV): Introducing Christopher Reeve as the man of steel, features the worst film performance of all time (Marlon Brando as Superman's dad) but quite good otherwise. **Coronation Street: The First 25 Years**: Weatherfield revisited in the company of Kim Barlow, the most boring man in the world. **Treasure Hunt Special**: Amelia Rice goes to Florida in her helicopter and gets lost as per nubby usual.

Friday December 27

George H.W. Christmas Special!: Tears and pranks at the comprehensive **Entertainment USA** (BBC2): Jonathan King chorries in more American. **Deep Water** (BBC2): Gripping psychological drama from Germany about a bloke going progressively bonkers and kidnapping people. **Razzmatazz Christmas Special** (ITV): Matinee, Spandau, Lloyd Cole, Feared! Sharkey, enthralls more.

Issue One, End Of The Road (ITV): Boogie! (except in Granada and Central where there's something good on) **Max Mosbrook, The Movie** (C4): Fuzzing film about the creation of the country's video rock with music by Major Tom and Chris Cross. **Tina Turner, Private Dancer Year 1985** (C4): Tina on stage at the BBC with great operaticity by Brian Adams and David Bowie.

Saturday December 28

The Tube Presents Dire Straits (C4): Swoozy concert.

Sunday December 29

WaterShip Down (BBC1): Cartoon film about rabbits **The Very Best Of Spitting Image** (ITV): Malicious puppets.

Monday December 30

The Complex Beeties (BBC1): Documentary about the Fab Four **Hustler On The Bunny** (ITV): Cartoon film about rabbits **The Music Of Lennon And McCartney** (C4): Part of Channel 4's "Archive Evening", a 1965 show featuring The Beatles and lots of old has-beens and dead people singing Beatles songs.

Tuesday December 31

Gene With The Wind (BBC1): Archive film epic about love and heartache in the American Civil War, a bit of a disaster - pass the Kleenex, mum! **Whistle Test!**: See us in the New Year with a bit of guitar-ton! Americans and special guests.

New Year's Day

Paul Young In Concert (BBC1): The white soul legend does his "Oh, my", **Rocky II** (BBC1): Rambo in the ring. **Wonderful Life** (BBC1): Sir Clifford Richard's classic film masterpiece about a sweet party in the Gobb desert or something. **The Comic Strip Presents... - Censuete** (C4): First of two new half-hour laugh-ins from the "skarsen!" filmmakers, written by French and Saulem and featuring Ria Mayal as a gunkeeper.

Thursday January 2

Top Of The Pops (BBC1): Wonder what the New Year will bring, ah, pop chum! **The Comic Strip Presents... - Private Enterprise** (C4): The one, written by Adrian Edmonson, is all about a pop group's stolen demo-tape.

V I D E O

● WHAMI: "Whami 85" (CBS FOX £9.95)

For anyone else it would be a bit of a cheek to rush out a compilation of the only three videos they've made this year, but "Whami 85" is so good that nobody will mind. First of the three is "Everything She Wants" (made for America where the song was number one this summer and, fact fans, featuring the "remox" version). All in black and white, there are lots of close-ups of an unshaven George and Andrew superimposed on a delirious crowd, and shots of money falling in

slow motion to the floor — a whopping video cliché, but it works! Next is "Freedom" (also made for America) which actually has very little to do with the song, being five minutes of footage shot for the feature film of Whami in China (with a short interview with the two of them beforehand) but it's still fairly fascinating stuff. Finally there's the current "I'm Your Man" video, though here you get all the chatting bits at the beginning and end (that they always cut out on *Top Of The Pops*) like George asking his manager why, if they've sold 3 million records in the last six months they still have to play at a grotty club like the Marquee.



● THE STYLE COUNCIL: "What We Did The Following Year" (Polygram, £13.99)

The follow-up to their "What We Did On Our Holidays" video, this is simply a collection of all the Style Council's single videos from "My Ever Changing Moods" to "The Lodgers". The early ones are quite normal — Paul and Mick riding bikes and boring things like that, but most of the time they just get on with the songs: "Shout To The Top", "You're The Best Thing" and "Walls Come Tumbling Down". The recent ones, however, just get weirder and weirder. In "Come To Milton Keynes" Paul and Merton Mick cavort around as a rather sinister music hall duo while

little children damage themselves with drugs. Then the two of them dress up as angels and, in a very spooky imitation of Whami, take shuttlecocks from their "midriffs". In "The Lodgers", Mick, plastered in make-up, runs round like a fat schoolboy while Paul and D.C. Lee sing in front of a selection of cardboard cut-outs. Finally, in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" (never shown in this country because the song was only a single in America) Paul, playing the part of an idiosyncratic country gentleman, ends up skipping merrily through a field throwing all his clothes off one by one as Merton Mick chases him! All entertaining stuff but it does start one wondering — has Paul Weiler gone completely bonkers?

Also just released are three more in the endless stream of compilation videos:

● Now 6* (Virgin/Picture Music, £16.99) contains:

Arcaña's "Decay Day"; Fearful Sherker's "A Good Heart"; Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill"; UB40 and Christine Hogg's "Get You Back"; UB40's "Don't Break My Heart"; Madness' "Uncle Sam"; Marillion's "Lansdowne"; Bryan Adams and Tina Turner's "It's Only Love"; Pat Sharp's "West End Girls"; The Thompson Twins' "King For A Day"; Simple Minds' "Alive And Kickin'"; Depeche Mode's "It's Called A Heart"; David Grieve and Jill Graham's "Hated, Gay Men's "Empire Room"; The Cult's "Revolution"; Bateman's "Tarzan Boy";

Ian Dury's "Profundity In Love With Pensions"; Cliff Richard's "She's So Beautiful"; and Queen's "Now What"

● Don't Watch That, Watch This 4P* (Polygram, £13.99) is cheaper but has rather less hits:

Lloyd Cole's "Last Weekend"; Squeeze & The Bandits' "Coco in Dixie"; Far Corporation's "Swamp To Heaven"; Fine Young Cannibals' "Blue"; The Commodores' "You Are My World"; Love 10's "Something About You"; Dale Gribble's "Walk Of Life"; Dixon's "Madrigal Business"; The B-52's "Love Shack"; Brenda Beal's "It's That Perfect Beat"; Nik Kerklovic's "When A Heart Beats"; The Cult's "Revolution"; plus singles by Junior Green On Red, Total Concept, Frank Chickens, Captain

● KING: "From Steps in Time To Bittersweet" (CBS FOX, £14.95)

Oh dear. King don't make very good videos, do they? It starts off well enough with "Love And Pride" (for some reason included here in the American remix v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v-v) — just four blokes in duff clothes clowring around by a cliff with spray paint over it — but the videos that follow are full of just about every cliché possible: moody lit rooms, holidays in hot countries, people falling out of water backwards in slow motion etc. The only one that's any good at all is their next single, "Torture", which has lots of simple colours and bubbles zipping across the screen like the beginning of one of those old James Bond films. But can't someone stop Paul King making all those prosy gestures with his hands?



Scrabble, and Big Sound Authority

● "Video Hits Collection" (Wernerwood, £6.99) is available only from Woolworths and, although it's the cheapest, it does contain some very wonky selections:

Bryan Ferry's "Slave To Love"; The Cult's "She Sells Sanctuary"; MIA's "Body And Soul"; The Cool Nones' "Spent The Night"; Princess' "See Me Through Number One"; Depeche Mode's "It's Called A Heart"; Killing Joke's "Love Me Back"; Elton John and Mike Jackson's "Act Of War"; Kenny MacCall's "A New England"; Ian Diamond's "I Should Have Known Better"; Billy Costello's "Jackdaws"; and singles by Three Degrees, A Rock Of Slogans and Theresa Bazar

ALBUMS

STARSHIP: Kneec Deep In The Hoopla (RCA)

A very long time ago, Starship's singer Grace Slick used to go on about how wonderful it would be if there was no money in the world and everybody had to live on berries but she grew out of all that pretty sharply and these days feeds her several love children on fine delicacies bought out of the vast profits she makes by singing in a disgustingly dreary rock band who sound like Toto (except on "We Built This City" where they sound like a very wonky Abba). 1/2 for Grace's super trousers on the cover. (8 1/2 out of 10)

Tom Hibbert

GRACE JONES: Island Life (Island)

In 1980 Grace Jones, who'd already been a European disco star for about three years, got a bit of a "facelift". She teamed up with "art director" (and boyfriend) Jean-Paul Goude, had her hair cut and started making sparse, rhythmic records like "Private Life" and "My Jamaican Guy" which have made her fairly famous and very, very trendy. This greatest hits collection includes all those and the recent "Slave To The Rhythm", but unfortunately it's slightly spoiled by the inclusion of a few of her pre-1980 songs on which she used to actually warble a bit (as opposed to nowadays when she's got the sense just to murmur meaningfully).

(7 out of 10)

Chris Heath

VARIOUS: Rocky IV Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (Scotti Bros)

Well, I'll eat my hat if Survivor's "Burning Heart", the theme to Rocky IV, isn't completely indistinguishable from "Eye Of The Tiger", the theme to Rocky III! Actually they're both on this LP alongside lots of other suspiciously similar sounding songs sung by lugubly boring old American rock persons. The only items that stand out are a sadly limp funk "workout" from James Brown, the once great "king of disco", and a plaintive little ballad, "One Way Street", by Go West — included by special request of Sylvester Stallone himself — the best moment on a very dull LP. (2 out of 10)

William Shaw

FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS: Fine Young Cannibals (London)

Unfortunately this tends to the subtitled "Blas" rather than the magnificent "Johnny Come Home" — very nice in the way of a real tune for Roland Gift's is magnificent "smoky" soul voice to get to grips with. He therefore ends up sounding unconvincingly worked-up to compensate, while the '60s soul and Motown influences struggle with awkward arrangements and a terribly punny rhythm section. The best songs are the slower ones, but the unnecessary and out of place version of Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds" (on which Jimmy Somerville pops up as guest singer) simply underlines how premature this whole LP is. Pity. (5 out of 10)

Ian Croome

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BRONSKI BEAT

hit that perfect beat



PHOTO: PAUL INOOR

Searching for some company
 Feel the rhythm dance with me
 Them beet boy blues seem out of place
 Now they want to party pace party pace
 Dance dance on the floor dance dance groove some more
 Dance dance feel the heat
 Hit that perfect beet boy hit that perfect beet boy

I've got that feeling them beet boy feelings
 I've got the feeling that perfect beet (feeling boy)
 I've got that feeling that perfect feeling
 That perfect feeling all over me

Beet boy beet boy hit that perfect beet boy
 Beet boy beet boy hit that perfect beet boy
 Beet boy beet boy hit that perfect beet boy
 Hit that perfect hit that perfect hit that perfect beet boy

Come come close to me I went this to be
 That perfect feeling all over me
 Come come close to me I went this to be
 That beet boy feeling all over me
 Too close for comfort too close for joy
 Boys in the back room their house destroy
 Touch and kiss a stranger if all else fails
 Hiding from the danger that's been sent from hell

I've got that feeling them beet boy feelings
 I've got that feeling the perfect beat
 I've got that feeling that perfect feeling
 That perfect feeling all over me
 Beet boy beet boy hit that perfect beet boy
 Beet boy beet boy hit that perfect beet boy
 Hit that perfect hit that perfect hit that perfect beet boy

Beet beet beet beet
 Beet beet beet beet boy

Hit hit hit hit
 Beet beet beet beet beet beet beet beet beet boy
 I've got that feeling them beet boy feelings
 I've got that feeling that perfect beet (beet boy beet boy)
 I've got that feeling that perfect feeling
 That perfect feeling all over me (beet boy beet boy)

Repeat to fade

Words and music by Bronski/Foster/Sternbachak
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 On London Records



leavin'

It seems true love is so rare
 Seems all I've known is deceit
 Your laughter fills the air
 Once more I'm sensing defeat
 And I suppose you're leaving me now
 I was so sure now I'm so full of doubt
 And I suppose you'll be leaving this place
 Just like the smile you've washed from my face
 This time

I always gave my best
 Your memory serves you so badly
 Some people kill for less
 Yet I'd still die for you gladly (so gladly)
 But I suppose it's my turn now
 To play your scene that's familiar somehow
 I turn the page and you walk away
 Not even love could bring you to stay
 This time

Walk away it's so easy
 Once more I'm learning
 In the depths of my despair



Your lies confirming
True love is so rare

And I suppose it's my turn now
There's no more love only feelings of doubt
A midnight sea that swells in your eyes
Takes just one look to know
I'm still mesmerized
But I suppose you're leaving me now
I was so sure now I'm so full of doubt
I turn the page and you walk away
Not even love could bring you to stay
This time

Leaving me now
Leaving this place

Words and music by M King/P Gould/W Badarou
Reproduced by permission Level 42 Music Ltd/
Chappell Music Ltd/Island Visual Arts
On Polydor Records



LEVEL 42

JENNIFER RUSH

ring of ice



We lay awake silent in the dark
You don't have to hide the trace
Emptiness left its mark

Ring of ice ring of ice round your heart
Ring of ice ring of ice break apart

We are lonely people wearing a ring of ice
Dancing in the night trying to disguise
All that lies behind
Countless empty lies
Wearing a ring of ice

I walk alone searching for a sign
Someone else must be alive
With warmth behind their eyes

Ring of ice ring of ice round your heart
Ring of ice ring of ice break apart

All the lonely people wearing a ring of ice
Dancing in the night trying to disguise
All that lies behind
Countless empty lies
Wearing a ring of ice

All the lonely people wearing a ring of ice
Dancing in the night trying to disguise
All that lies behind
Surrounded by a ring of ice
Dancing in the night trying to disguise
All that lies behind
Surrounded by a ring of ice
Repeat to fade

Words and music by C de Rouge/G Mendel/
J Rush
Reproduced by permission CBS Songs Ltd
On CBS Records

Mutterings

So you thought that was the end of the Rodgers Pop! Well, you're right, clever clogs! Well, you're ruddy mistaken. Na na na na na! Only seconds after we'd met the "deadline" for the results, the phones started a-buzzing as millions of popsters made desperate, last-ditch efforts to get their own personal poll forms printed within our tatty pages. For instance, we had a call from that **Holly Johnson** bloke from **Frankie Goes To Hollywood** who are currently held up in a "gritty suburb" 20 miles outside Amsterdam where the "lads" are in the process of "re-inventing themselves" or something. "Most of the new LP is written," Holly tells us, "and half's in the recording stage - it's very different, a new sound. We're using a completely different approach." All very interesting, we're sure, but what about your poll form? "Well, I don't think there's been many good records this year, nothing inspiring anyway. I did like the **Colonel Abrams** record and I think the **Pet Shop Boys'** one is really good too, it's also got a good video. And **Hims!** I really liked **Dune** - but everybody else hated that, didn't they? The one I can't wait to see is **Legend** by **Rutley Scott**, sounds brilliant. We met the star **Tim Curry** when he was making it and he was telling us about the horrors of make-up and all that - he plays the Devil, you see. That sounds **leaky!** The cheeky monkey now starts babbling on about the **Frankie LP** all over again - I'll be out early next summer, followed by a child size bath - moves on to the group's personal appearance - "I'm not blond anymore. **Paul Rutherford** has shaved off his moustache and his hair's different, all brushed kind of lowward, and the rest look about the same" - and it's ages before we can get him back to the subject in hand, i.e. The Poll. Holy's favourite group is **Everything But The Girl**, it seems. His "worst singer" is "that new bloke from **Bronski Beat**". His most fancible person is **Divine**, **Biggest Prate** - **Margaret Thatcher** and **Most Very Horrible Thing** the **Atom Bomb**. Mutterings has to hang up now as the postie has

just brought an envelope marked "urgent". Cor - it's **Paul King's** completed poll form. Fancy that! Paul's "best female of the year" is "Ozzy" by **Propaganda** and best LP "Hounds Of Love" by **Kate Bush** (a v. popular choice amongst the pop star contingent). "Love 'em all" was his creepy crawlly reply in the Worst CD category. His Best Dressed Person was **Paul Weller**, his Most Fancible actress, **Jessica Lange**. Incredible. **Steve Wright** (v. "zany" QJ) was on customary "wacky" form when it came to doing his poll - he put **Divine** down for Worst Female Singer, **Supergran** as Least Promising New Act and "the man who bought **Airflow** and put it on TV" as his Biggest Prate Of The Year. **Arnold** isn't a very good TV programme, is it? **Red Box**, meanwhile, showed themselves as the ideologically aware souls they undoubtedly are by listing **Aids** as their Most Very Horrible Thing and **Ronald Reagan** as their Non-Music TV Programme, a hanging on a tree, here come the **Pet Shop Boys** to hand deliver their poll forms, let's have a peek, shall we? Best video - "I

Don't Like Mondays" by the **Boombtown Rats**, Best group **The Bay City Rollers**, Best Female Singer - **Cilla Black**. **Event Of The Year** - **The Royal Wedding**. Er, don't think they've quite got the hang of this, actually. Brring. Oh look, the postie's arrived with more mail and no! It can't be! **Howard Jones'** form has just arrived - and half the categories are empty - "I don't believe in the worst categories" he remarks. Oh c'mon, howa, be a sport - no, he won't budge. "I don't believe in the worst categories" etc. etc. Oh, but hang on a mo, I think he's having second thoughts. "Well, I don't usually believe in worst but... **McDonalds** is definitely the worst TV Ad". Oh, well, that's alright then - but why, might one ask, has **Howard** put **Grace Jones** down for almost everything - Best Single to Best Dressed Person - except Best TV Programme which goes to **Blind Date?** And, finally, by special carrier pigeon, here comes the poll form of its deity **Michael Jackson Ronald Reagan** is the Best Non-Music TV Programme, a watering can full of baked beans is the Best Harcour, oh, we see, someone's playing a

little "prank" on us. /res amussant! Mutterings is now utterly chuffed off with poll forms, except for **Andrew Ridgeley's** of course. Wasn't **Andrew** heard to **Years For Fears**, eh (how law law)? Well, even funnier was the fact that we told **Curt Smith** what **Andrew** has been saying about them (sir, sir) and here's what **Curt** had to say on the matter. "Well, we've said we don't like **Wham's** music but that's just a musical judgement and I'm sure **George Michael** knows that. But **Andrew Ridgeley's** just the minor member of **Wham!** and we've obviously hurt his little ego!" Can't imagine **Andrew** being too upset by that though. He seems too busy having a ruddy old laugh with **Fleet St**. For a start he hobbled into **Heshrow** on crutches when it seemed he actually had nothing wrong with him (making the front page of all the **Sundays**) and then he laid the people from the **News Of The World** to "stick their heads up their very rude word indeed!" **Andrew's** a bit led up with newspapers, as per ruddy usual, particularly so since all the "exclusive" stories about his forthcoming marriage to someone called **Dona Fonteno** (sounds a bit posh,

eh, pop chums?) It is, of course, a load of old hiddle and **Andrew** will be getting chucked out of nightclubs for the foreseeable future. More adsky to "be the best" by all accounts! **Simon Lee Bon** and **Yasmin** - or rather "Pebbles" as he now refers to her, after the baby in the cartoon series **The Flintstones**. Currently, they're "holed" up in a Swiss hide "wintering", "testing" and "doing a bit of ski-ing" unfortunately the thaw's just set in so we won't be doing much of that." Sure they'll find something to occupy themselves, knowanawant? Apparently **Simon** will be doing a video for the next **Arcaadia** single ("The Promise") before getting off to New Zealand late January to get into shape for the "big" "race". The video will go something like this "It'll be very simple with us performing with a few references to symbols and some stock footage" (old cliche) Super "The song has a lot of feeling - it's not an obvious single - it mainly deals with human suffering" **Ward!** There'll probably be another single after that but when **Ward** comes out I'll be somewhere in the middle of an ocean." View **Halo!!** In fact, he sets sail in mid-February, and will eventually cross the Southern Ocean and "go very close to the South Pole". **Brrrr!** He'll also be whizzing round the most treacherous stretch of water in the world - **Cape Horn** - which **Simon** anticipates will be "quite hairy". Pass the sea sick pills, **Mum!** **Women** and children first! So what will **Yasmin**, sorry, **Pebbles** be doing during all this? "Well, she won't be modelling for a start - she's giving all that up. She's got far better things to do - we learn languages." She won't be joining her skipper on board either, and all **Simon** will have for company - apart from his scurvy crew and "lots of peanuts" - will be his "Kate Bush, **Sing**, **Propaganda**, **Arcaadia** and **Canto De Pueblos Andinos** legends." Who'd be a silly seagot, eh, pop toffs? . And that just about "wraps up" this extra special "Yes-we're-actually-joined-to-famous-people-instead-of-making-everything-up" edition of Mutterings.



Picture the scene: Madonna isn't even a feeny bit famous and she needs some money, so she gets a job as a babysitter. On her first "assignment" she brings along one of her "beans" and while the "baby" - a 7 year old called Jason Brougham - is watching some terrible American quiz show, Madonna and her boyfriend settle down for a spot of "amazing" romps! Right in front of **Little Jean!** Dir ee he claims, eight years later, in one of these American newspaper "expos" . . .

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