

SMASH HITS



THAT WAS 1985

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

PLUS A-HA, STING, TEARS FOR FEARS

THE STYLE COUNCIL, PAUL YOUNG, DIRE STRAITS, NICK RHODES AND BILLY BRAGG



56-58 TEARS FOR FEARS
But which one used to dress up in women's clothes?

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46-47 NIGHTSOUT SPECIAL
Paul Young! Dire Straits!! Lloyd Cole!!! And . . . um
... oh yeah . . . The Style Council!!!!



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RUSSIANS STING

In Europe and America
There's a growing feeling of hysteria
Conditioned to respond to all the threats
In the rhetorical speeches of the Soviets
Mr Khrushchev said we will bury you
I don't subscribe to this point of view
It would be such an ignorant thing to do
If the Russians love their children too

How can I save my little boy
From Oppenheimer's deadly toy
There is no monopoly of common sense
On either side of the political fence
We share the same biology
Regardless of ideology
Believe me when I say to you
I hope the Russians love their children too

There is no historical precedent
To put the words in the mouth of the president
There's no such thing as a winnable war
It's a lie we don't believe any more
Mr Reagan says we will protect you
I don't subscribe to this point of view
Believe me when I say to you
I hope the Russians love their children too

We share the same biology
Regardless of ideology
What might save us me and you
Is if the Russians love their children too

Words and music by Sting
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Hello Readers!

Here are five very "interesting" Wham! pop facts.

1. They're donating all the royalties from the re-release of "Christmas" to the Band Aid Ethiopian Famine Fund.
2. They've got a new "information service" – it's not exactly a fan club, but it's better than nowt. Full details are in *Get Smart* (page 22).
3. The film company who asked for Wham! "superfans" to write to them, and possibly appear on TV (*Bitz*, November 20) have been completely muddled with replies. They can't cope with any more, and say "Thank you very much, but please stop writing." All the letters they couldn't deal with have been passed on to the aforementioned Wham! Information Service, so everyone should be receiving a reply sooner or later.
4. **Roland Orzabal** was so miffed by Andrew Ridgeley's horribly "astute" comments about him in the last issue that he gave him a right old kicking – and here's Andy with a gammy leg to prove it.



"Boring Legal Dept. writes 'interesting' Wham! pop fact number 4 is actually a complete and utter fabrication. The real reason for Mr. Ridgeley's crutches is that he was playing a trick on Fleet Street – there wasn't anything wrong with his leg at all."

5. Andrew Ridgeley's rather a "droll" person, isn't he?

Whatever happened to **Julian Cope** – Britain's Brightest Pop Genius? Crumbs – we haven't the foggiest! But no matter, Julian's brother **Joan** has just popped up – as if by magic – in a feisty combo called **Freight Train**. Their first single, "Man's Laughter", is released as we type and – mark our words – it's rug-die burrrrrr-illiant.



Why should you use instruments and things when you can get out five million peculiar noises from your very own lungs? **Doug E. Fresh** shows us how with "Bonus Lesson", one of three old tracks collected together for a new 12" single "Just Having Fun (Do The Beat Box)". It's out on Streetwave Records.

It seems that every single pop star in the world's getting "mightily involved" in TV and film tunes these days. If it's not the thrash from *Miami Vice* or *Howards Way*, it's something fresh off a "major US box office blockbuster" that *Bitz* has never even heard of. Take crooning soulster **Billy Ocean's** new single "When The Going Gets Tough The Tough Get Going", for instance – it's from *Jewel On The Nile* (which hasn't even been released here yet), and is being promoted with an icky old vid chock full of clips from the film. Groo. Groo. Groo.

"She's Strange" is doing so well in the charts that **Cameo** have made some pretty rapid alterations to their latest album, "Single Life" (which – interesting pop fact – is their 11th LP). Not only has it come out in a brand new sleeve, but miraculously, it's also had the single squeezed onto it. Strange indeed.



BILLY BRAGG: "YOU'VE GOT TO STIC"

BRRRRRRINING! The *Independent* reports that at Westminster High School in London's Lambeth district, it was on the 5th and 6th formers' assembly that the school had its first strike of all home. The remaining 200 or so pupils, having been told to stand and a grinning figure, guitar in hand, looked across the room at William Bragg (somewhat like *Mr. Bean*), a 17-year-old who's come to talk about racism and play a guitar on the steps of the school's "Community Awareness Centre".

"We're looking at the community from a different perspective" aspect," explains Paul Egan, head of Modern Studies. "We're looking at the things that affect kids growing up in the city. Last End, and we thought of Billy because this is a good first step."

And, believing that "if you don't learn to think at school, you never will", Billy, although pretty busy with the star-studded rock-against-Thatcher Red Wedge project and playing 50 million gigs a week, jumped at the chance of putting his views to "the kids".

Quipping merrily, with the crowd roaring approval at every possible opportunity, Billy sandwiches his songs with some grumpy observations. Firstly, he points out, the British Empire exploited its colonies ("Look in the British Museum – the stuff's all nicked") and so Britain owes the Afro-Caribbean and immigrants from other ex-colonies quite a bit in return. "End of history lesson," he says, "but imagine how boring it would be without everything immigrants have brought us – we'd have to eat in English restaurants all the time and everything would



close at 5.30."

Then, of course, there's the "mighty" influence of black music in pop, and he gives Smokey Robinson as an example of someone who could open his heart and bare his soul: "I used to think I was the only person who was spotty and unloved until I heard Smokey singing about how not only was he spotty and unloved, but how he got spasm in his packed lunch every day as well."

But, ridiculous as it is, people still



● Meet **Janet Grimsey**, internationally acclaimed recording artiste extraordinaire, proudly showing off her gold disc awarded to commemorate "upwards" of a billion sales of her Euro Disco smash hit "Let's All Have A Euro Disco Knees Up Why Don't We" and . . . oh, let's come clean, shall we?? Yes, let's . . . This IS Janet Grimsey and this IS a gold disc. The disc, however, is **Stevie Wonder's LP "In Square Circle"** and Janet won the highly prized item in the Smash Hits/Motown Records Steve Wonder contest for which there were no less than 9000 entries! Hats off to Janet! Hurrah!

Blamin' heck - another competition! And a Madonna one to boot. But what's the prize? Is it a) a tastefully ripped set of his "her" "foundation garments" (fudges to you, matty) as modelled by Mrs Penn herself, b) a personally signed lock of Madonna's hair or c) a year's supply of stick-on beauty spots? Well, actually the answer's a none of these, but that's not the question. Ha! This is the question: What's Madonna's real name? And this is the prize: a smug'n trendy "Crazy For You" trakkie - just the "ticket" for jogging away that excess Christmas poundage to your "Shape Up 'n' Ship Out With Dame Una Nescafe" exercise record. Answers to Smash Hits Keep Fit Competition, £2-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF by 14 January. First 20 correct answers out of the multi-gym get track suits



et you all think that Aled Jones, the Welsh 14 year old with the choirboy voice, is a bit of a girly swot, don't you? Well, so did his classmates at school to start with. "They didn't like it," he remembers, "when I used to sing in a choirboy outfit - they used to call me 'Jesus' and all sorts of other things. But now I've gone into more poppy sort of stuff [like his current hit, "Walking in the Air"] they don't mind." Good thing too, as apart from his musical career he's just a pretty normal bloke. He does O.K. at school, "chucks paper and uses peashooters" when the teachers aren't looking, has deserted Coronation Street for EastEnders ("it's true to life really, isn't it?"), reads Smash Hits and likes lots of pop music.

His favourites are Phil Collins, Whitney Houston, Eurythmics, Alison Moyet, Spandau Ballet, UB40 and Madness. He used to like U2 (now he thinks "it's just a noise, isn't it?"), reckons that all Duran Duran songs sound the same, and is a bit iffy about Wham!, "I liked "Careless Whisper" but I bought their "Make It Big" album and . . . (looks as if he's going to be sick). I think I only played it once." And he "hates" Bruce Springsteen, not least because **The Boss** kept Aled's last 15 off the top of the charts.

Aled also admits that a few years back he went through his heavy metal phase - "we used to have these denim jackets with 'Motorhead' and studs on the back; when we were 10 or 11 we used to go to discos and headbang". Nowadays he has on his bedroom wall a picture of David Bowie, a Nik Kershaw poster ("from Smash Hits"), a poster of a monkey playing tennis (?) and a calendar full of more monkeys: "I like monkeys," he explains.

The good bits about his success are meeting people like Cliff Richard ("Sir Clifford, as you call him"), the worst bit is the flying ("I hate flying"), and if he wasn't a singer would like to work "in radio or TV, maybe be a DJ". Doesn't sound like too much of a girly swot after all, does he?

K TOGETHER LIKE THEY DO ON GRANGE HILL."

attack and exclude other people because of their colour or nationality, and Billy warns everyone to be on their guard against the way the "popular press" can often pick up on racism to distort the truth: "Like the Handsworth riots," he says, "they may have happened because of inner city deprivation, but the press picked up on the racism angle to say this isn't our problem - it's theirs, the immigrants". All this has the effect of turning people against each other. "You've got to stick together like they do on Grange Hill." And, according to Billy, also keep an open mind: "It's stupid to believe that any one paper tells the truth. Buy a few."

After a few words on Oliver



Cromwell and the Royalists ("they looked like poncy Spandau Ballet fans"), his career education ("which consisted of being taken round Ford



at Dagenham once a year") and suggesting everyone be pop stars, ("plenty of room at the top - all you need's a big shirt and plastic surgery"), he clashes with his new single "Days Like These", out this week for a very unsuitably 99p ("This record," says Billy, "asks you, the audience, to do something and not to be like those old hippies who expected Bob Dylan to do it for them. Speak out against racism when you find it"

Sorel Downer

Photo: Andy Collins



SHARP

PERSONAL STEREO

LESS BUZZ



W
KS
MORE FIZZ



WHAT EVER H

that group you know the bass player had a baseball cap on and they had a b

Photo: UPI



● BIG COUNTRY

Amidst rumours that they all hated each other and with no sign of any new records, lots of people seemed to think that Big Country had split up. Not so. While Stuart Adamson has been up in Scotland writing songs, Mark Unpronounceable and Tony Butler have been doing lots of "season" work (they used to be session musicians anyway) - with Roger Daltrey, The Cult and Pete Townshend. Together they will soon start recording a new LP.



● AZTEC CAMERA

After spending the first part of 1985 playing concerts in Japan and North America to promote the "Knee" LP, they returned home and Roddy Frame (the bloke who used to wear the cowboy jackets) scuttled off to his isolated cottage in the Cheshire hills to read a few books and write some songs (apparently the only way he can write is "to be alone and sit up all night"). The results are apparently "very melodic" but a single probably won't be out until the summer and, the group's spokesperson emphasizes strongly, definitely won't be produced by Dire Straits' Mark Knopfer (as their last LP was)



● GARY NUMAN

Even if his records never quite make it into the charts these days, Gasza's been carrying on making them - he recently put out an LP called "The Fury" and is currently working on "new product" (oops) which

● FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

After they finished their world tour, they all zipped off to different parts of the world on holiday - Holly to Vienna and Formica, Paul to New York, Ped to Spain, Mark to New York then Florida, and Nasher to Los Angeles. Then they got together again to write some songs in Ireland, and finally they spent the last part of 1985 in Amsterdam working on "new production" (i.e. finishing writing the songs). Something should appear in late spring, produced yet again by Trevor "very horrible specs" Horn.



apparently will be "rather different" with "uptempo, heavy guitars". He is also, as always, been doing lots of loop-the-loops amongst the papers - recently he joined the Harvard display team, an organisation near London, and has been practising for some World War II Air Displays. "He's very committed to it," says someone who knows



● THE HUMAN LEAGUE

The when-will-they-ever-make-another-record saga continues. They worked for months on an album with Duran Duran producer Colin Thurston but then fell out with him in September and decided to start all over again. Unfortunately the American producer they've chosen wasn't free until now so nothing will now be released until the spring at the earliest. While not working they've spent the best part of the year based in Sheffield - Susanne Sulley has been attending acting classes and Philip Oakes (who made the LP with Giorgio Moroder) has been asked to do some firm music



● KAJIA

After getting rid of the "goo-goo" bit of their name, they spent most of the year recording their LP, "Crazy People Right To Speak" in Los Angeles and London and touring in places like Thailand, Hungary and Poland. In between all this Nick Beggs (the one who used to have the ridiculous fuzzy hair) married his girlfriend Boo. Now they're



● WAH!

Pete Wiehe has been hiding away for most of this year being a bit of a recluse and planning his comeback, which will show "a less traditional approach to the rock anthem", apparently using "a lot more technology" than before. The first result will appear sometime in early spring on Virgin Records and though he hasn't made his mind up yet what his "group" will be called, it probably won't be Wah! Oh, and he's also had most of that hair cut off

still having a bit of a "rethink" as their last few records haven't done very well at all. Their future plans are, well, a bit "vague". Oh, hang on a mo, it's just been announced that Kajia have actually broken up! It's all very sad.



● HOWARD JONES

After spending the last few months touring Japan,

Australia and America (where he's now a big star), Howard's just come home and has gone into the studio with Phil Collins to re-record "No-One is To Blame", possibly for release as a single. He's also just played a couple of concerts in schools for War On Want and a one-off concert at the Birmingham NEC - the first time he's played in this country with his new backing singers, Afrodisiac. In February he'll go to America again to start recording a new LP.



● TRACIE

Launched to stardom as the girl singer who Paul Weller found through an ad in the pages of Smash Hits, things haven't really gone too well for Tracie since her first record, "The House That Jack Built", was a hit in 1983. Though she's still on Weller's Respond label, she now says that "my only connection with him is that he pays my wages". Last year she put out two top singles - one of which had a B-side in support of the "Wickham 10", a group of animal rights supporters

OPENED IT

with that song which went "da da dee... um oh what were they called."

currently on trial. She'll have an album out in spring, but first she's moving into a new house with her boyfriend and her dogs and cats. Aaah



● THE SPECIAL AKA

As usual The Special AKA (whose last big hit was "Free Nelson Mandela") are in a state of flux. Jerry Dammers was been taking ages writing incidental music for the film *Absolute Beginners*, while finding time to produce the "Winds Of Change" record for Namibia with Robert Wyatt. John Brabury has made a solo single as JB's All Stars, "Alphabet Army," in support of the teachers' strike (out last month). The Special AKA, meanwhile, have found a new vocalist, whose identity is a "secret", to replace Stan Campbell and as for when they're all going to get together to make another record — "no-one's quite sure".



● HAIRCUT 100

Haircut 100 are awfully hard to track down these days, seeing as they don't have a record company any more — they were "dropped" after all their singles without Nick Heyward topped. But we finally managed to get hold of Les Nemes' phone number, so we rang him to ask what they'd all been up to.

Well, Mark Fox has been playing with Elaine Paige, Phil (Neville Smith) has been working with Owen Paul and Wham's friend, David Austin, Blair Cunningham has just finished playing with the Explorers, and Graham is working with old mates Ben and Scott in a band called Boys Wonder. He dresses up in a cowboy hat with a big rucksack on his back and he's got cowboy legs and wears rucking socks — they're really funny. Me? I've done a few sessions like the Monkees (the band who ate sugar) and Norway (Dan A-Pal) and played on a few songs on Nick's album. "And will all of Haircut 100, including Nick, get back together again? "It'd be nice,"

he says. "We've played together a couple of times recently just for fun. There was all that stuff in the papers about us hating each other but suddenly we realised that we didn't hate each other at all and what were we doing not phoning each other up? At the moment there's not a definite plan to get together — but there's no plan not to. Anyway Paddington's just come on the telly so I must go." Click Drrrr.



● NENA

You could be forgiven for thinking that Nena — who "escaped" to number one in 1984 with "99 Red Balloons" never to be heard of again — was a classic example of a one-hit-wonder-down-the-dumper-act. But actually the German popstar has been doing quite nicely thank you in their home country (they're still massively popular — always on the telly, in the charts, on the covers of magazines etc. Over here, however, everything that's been released since "Balloons" has been a gigantic flop and so the UK record company have sort of given up. No British releases planned at the mo — so the long-awaited Nena revival will just have to wait.



● MARI WILSON

Three years ago Mari Wilson was on Top of the Pops, showing off her beehive and singing songs like "Just What I Always Wanted". These days, after unsuccessfully trying to record a second album, she's parted from her record company, let her hair down and given up pop music completely. Instead she now fronts a jazz quartet singing cover versions of old "chestsnuts" by people like Julie London and Peggy Lee (and none of her old songs) recently and the band toured supporting "legends" jazz musician Ronnie Scott, and now they have a residency at a London club where they are (apparently) "going down a storm".



● MEN AT WORK

"Whatever happened to Men At Work, that Australian combo who had a number one hit in Britain and America at the same time back in 1983 with "Down Under", a record that sounded exactly like The Police, I wonder?" is the question on hardly anyone's lips these days. Well, the answer's a bit boring we're afraid — i.e. "not much". Soon after the success of "Down Under" and the LP "Business As Usual", three of the five members — Jerry Speiser, John Rees and Ron Strykard — got fired ("musical and personal differences", maan) — leaving singer Colin Hay and Greg Ham (the one who played all the instruments you blow down) to carry on alone. The duo's LP "Two Hearts", released last summer, was a bit of a stinker and within seconds Greg Ham had decided to leave the band too (in order to "do his own thing", whatever that might be). Hey bingo! — Men At Work had become something of a misnomer because there's only one man now — and whoever called "writing songs and considering the future" WORK??"



● THE COLOURFIELD

After going to America earlier this year to promote their "Virgins And Phisicians" LP (with not very much success), the three of them came home. Terry Hell has been settling into his house on a hill outside Stockport with his girlfriend and cat and going to see Manchester United play football as often as humanly possible. They've also written a few new songs and one, "Things Could Be Beautiful", will be out this month.



● THOMAS DOLBY

Bit of a busy man, Thomas Dolby, even if he hasn't had time to make any records of his own. Since his last LP ("The Flat Earth") he's produced Prefab Sprout's "Steve McQueen" LP, wrote,

directed and acted in a Ruuch Sakamoto vid called "Fieldwork" (not yet released over here), played with Steve Wonder, Herbie Hancock and Howard Jones at the American Grammy Awards, produced the new LP by obscure American hippie singer Jon Mitchell, did the soundtrack for a film called *Fever Pitch*, played at Live Aid backing David Bowie, put out a single, "May The Cube Be With You" under the name Dolby's Cube, wrote the opening music for another film called *Cuckoo* and has just started working on the music for yet another film, a big budget fringe called *Howard The Duck*. Phooooowww!!! And he next solo LP? "At the moment he has no plans," says his spokesperson. Lazy sod



● KIM WILDE

Even though Kim's only had one hit ("Fragile To Love") in Britain last year, she's been quite busy in Europe where they apparently "love her". She's also been in Rome for a week's holiday, was a bridesmaid at brother Ricky's wedding on June 15th, has been decorating her flat in North West London and recorded a song, "Turn It On", for the soundtrack to the very dodgy film *Weird Science*. She's also been meeting with songwriters and producers for her next LP and a new single should be out in late February.



● ABBA

When in late 1983 the four multimillionaire Swedes announced that they wouldn't be makin' music together until further notice, the official reason given was the usual guff about pursuing "solo projects" — but ABBA's billion lairs, well-accounted for the

● MICHAEL JACKSON

Contrary to popular belief, Michael Jackson hasn't spent all his time since *Thriller* mucking out Louis the jenna's stable, flying on aeroplanes disguised as a monkey, and/or knocking on people's front doors in his role of Jehovah's Witnesses recruiting officer. Not the little man with the whirling feet is back in the studio right now with maestro producer Quincy Jones. The LP will be out in March/April and will be platinum by April/May — mark our words!

CONTINUES OVER



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groups a internal human dramas, suspected that it was the breakdowns of the close interpersonal relationships of Benny and Frida and Bjorn and Agrietta that had really sparked the decision. On the post-Abba "solo project" front, the chaps have fared better than their former paramours what Agrietta and Frida have both produced solo albums that did alright in Sweden but pretty uselessly elsewhere. Bjorn and Benny remained partners and began working with the English lyrical "genius" Tim Rice on the musical *Chess*. This is due to open in London next March and Bjorn and Benny are - even as we write - heavily involved in the cast auditions - though if Elaine Page & Barbara Dickson's "I Know Him So Well" (a number one "taster" from *Chess*) is anything to go by, the stage show will be awful. And, according to a hotly toly spokescowman, there'll be no Abba reunion until "the time is right", i.e. probably never.

Photo: Donkey Photography



writing songs with Giorgio Moroder (the man who invented disco music). Expect a single in February.



● JOHN LYDON

The man who almost single-handedly invented scowling as singer for punk rock "swession" Sex Pistols and then did lots of weird things as Public Image Limited (P.I.) has spent most of this year touring around in Los Angeles doing nothing in particular. However, he's finally got round to recording a new LP (out any second now) produced by trendy producer Bill Laswell, and as for the career as an actor he started a few years back, he's now decided that he'll "never do another film".



● NICK HEYWARD

He'll be returning next year with the brand new LP he's just completed and a brand new "grown up" image. (According to a spokesperson, that means he "won't be swinging from trees anymore". Well, that's something of a relief.)



● HEAVEN 17

Heaven 17 spent a good part of last year being very cross indeed. You see, they were asked to write the soundtrack for a French film but lots of things went very wrong. No-one's allowed to talk about it, but Heaven 17 don't like people who make French films very much any more. Still, they did manage to salvage two songs from the soundtrack - "Red" and "It's A Foolish Thing To Do" - and one of them will be their "comeback" single early this year. It'll be followed by an album which apparently will be "consciously different" from what they've done in the past, as well as that. Glenn Gregory duetted with Claudia from Propaganda on the single "When You

"Heart Runs Out Of Time" from the film (insignificance and popped up a few times on the Janice Long show reviewing newspapers and theatre shows). Martin Ware produced a couple of songs for - gasp! - Dan Hartman and the group recorded a dense rock album featuring bits of all their best tracks from "Fascist Groove Thang" to "This Is Mine" which they'll let the rest of us hear sometime later this year.



● JAPAN

After his photographic exhibition "Perspective Poloroids 82-84" earlier in the year, David Sylvian went to Tokyo where he made the video "Steel Cathedral" (released this month) based on the exhibition and on his involvement with art and music generally. Since then he's been working on material and has just released an instrumental 12" single, "Words With The Shaman", and a cassette-only album "Alchemy - An Index Of Possibilities", though the long-promised vocal album is still being recorded and is now due around March. He also hopes to tour in 1985.

Mark Kam is currently without a record contract after the poor reception of his solo LP "Titillation" and Dali's Car. His collaborations with Bauhaus' Peter Murphy, however, he's been concentrating on gastronomy (he runs a restaurant) and sculpture. Bruce Jansen and Paul Barber are working together at the moment and are just about to sign a contract in Japan as Jansen-Barber, after which they'll tour Japan and, hopefully, Britain.



● ALISON MOYET

Alison and Paul Young enjoyed working together at Live Aid so much that they decided to record a single. Unfortunately the song - an old Motown number but not "That's The Way Love Is" - didn't really work out, so all plans to release it have been shelved. In the autumn Alison played four jazz concerts singing old cover versions backed by a 20 piece orchestra and then whizzed round the world promoting her "Ait" LP. Her next LP should be out in the spring. But, most importantly, she's accepted a goal from an animal shelter to go with her first collection of hens. Only trouble was it started to wick the garden so she had to take it back.

● CULTURE CLUB

Since they played for a few concerts in America this summer, Culture Club's main priority has been the album they're recording with Chava Khan's producer, Neil Mardin. One of the reasons it's taken so long is that George has been gallivanting around the world doing things like the Fashion Aid show. In the meantime, Jon Moss has produced Won't You Wish Yeah (hey, like wow!), Roy Haly's expecting a baby (well, he wife is) and Mikey Craig's been "floating around". Good news is the LP is nearly finished, and a single should be out in February.



● TRACEY ULLMAN

"She always said she was just making records for a bit of a laugh anyway," explains Tracey's spokescowman, "and that once the hits stopped so would she". And, lo and behold, the hits certainly did stop. So Tracey moved off to Los Angeles where she's concentrating on her acting career. She's been seen on telly in the sci-com Girls On Top. She's recently finished the film *Henry*, in which she appears alongside Elmg and Meryl Streep, and there's currently talk of an American TV show.

● MODERN ROMANCE

After having a bit of a "rethink" at the start of the last year, Modern Romance (mainly new members but still based round founder David Jaymes) have decided to head back towards the Latin rhythms and party music that made them famous (well, for a little while anyway). The first results will appear in about February with some concerts to follow. Meanwhile they're promoting a medley of all their most famous hits like "Everybody Salsa" and what were the others?



● SPANDAU BALLET

There are three reasons we haven't seen much of Spandau Ballet this year. 1) they're arguing in the courts with their record company, Chrysalis, 2) they actually haven't written very many new songs yet, 3) Steve Norman has been out of 'action' after damaging his leg on tour in the spring. Still, Steve was well enough to play at Live Aid.

after which they went off to Dublin ("nothing" to do with tax, of course) to rehearse and write songs. John Keeble's shaved off the rather sinister beard he'd grown, Tony announced that he was going to be a father again, Steve and Martin appeared as members of the Manchester Ryegate football team in the *Roy Of The Rivers* comic and modelled clothes for Crolla at Fashion Aid. Martin also spent a few weeks in Miami windsurfing, hang-gilding, parachuting and claiming he wanted to "look like Rambo". Back in England at the end of the year the group met Charles and Di at the Prince's Trust and did slipped an injunction on their record company for releasing a compilation of the band's greatest hits without permission.

And as for new records, there's apparently nothing yet ready for release, though when they do appear they're rumored to show a "heavier rocker side" to Spandau Ballet than we've seen before. Coote.



● LIMAH

Limahl spent most of 1985 going round the world promoting his "Maverinding Story" single which was a hit just about everywhere, but for the last three months has been locked in a German studio

GET SMART

There is absolutely *nothing* that *Smash Hits* doesn't know about (apart from gardening and The Industrial Revolution), so if you've got a "query" write to: Get Smart, *Smash Hits*, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF.

IS WHAM!'S FAN CLUB A SWIZZLE?

Could you please tell me what's happened to Wham!'s fan club? I have twice written to Wham! Fan Club, P.O. Box 1AP, London W1A 1AP, but sadly I haven't received any reply. Is this the right address or not?

Jayne Daniel, Neithefield.

It's not surprising you didn't receive a reply, seeing as The Wham! Fan Club was wound up last March due to "gross mismanagement". The bloke who ran the club up until then seems to have cashed fans' checks without sending out merchandise and left 65 postal sacks of fan mail – about 100,000 letters – unopened. At this point Wham!'s management hired another company to clear up the mess, and since April they've refunded over £22,000 to disappointed fans. Now that the slate has finally been "wiped" clean, the people who ran the refund operation have set up a new organisation called



The very first Wham! information service newsletter.

The Wham! Information Service. It costs £1.00 a year to subscribe (£2.00 if you live outside the U.K.), for which you get three newsletters a year, plus "exclusive ticket and merchandise offers".

The organisers stress that it's not exactly a fan club as it can't "answer individual queries; however, all personal mail, presents etc. addressed to ver lads will be passed onto Wham!'s office. The only thing that hasn't changed is the address: **Wham! Information Service, P.O. Box 1AP, London W1A 1AP.**

MICHAEL J. FOX – THE TERRIBLE TRUTH!



Photo: LP

A scene from *Family Ties* in which a horrendous screen "mom" gives him a bit of her worky hippie philosophy.



He's "talented". He's "tense". He's in a doggy old book.

I hope you can help me, I've fallen hopelessly in love with Michael J. Fox, the American film star in *Back To The Future*. Can you please tell me all about him? And has he got a fan club?
Rachel, Gateshead

Well for a start, he's Canadian, not American. He was born on June 9 1961, and grew up in Vancouver with his brother and three sisters. He's a birrova "sportsman" – his original ambition was to be a professional hockey player, but lack of height (he's 5'4") ruled this out. He's appeared in various dodgy American TV programmes, the most successful being *Family Ties* (which has just finished a run on Channel 4 but will be back in February or March), if you're really interested in him, look for a book called *Michael J. Fox – On To The Future* by Marsha Daly, which has just been published by Virgin Books. It's mainly a rather turgid American "limpspeak" account of his career, but does impart a few gems of personal information (e.g. his current girlfriend, actress Nancy McKeon, was "more experienced as a performer" when they met). His likes include Chinese and Italian food, fast cars and playing baseball, and if he could really go back to the past, he reckons "The birth of Christ would be a pretty cool thing to check out". Heeeyo. No sign of any fan club, alas.

* Our resident TV "expert" (T.Hibbert) comments: *Family Ties* is a useless TV so "com" featuring M.J. as Alex Keaton, the wide cracking capitalist brain son of apparently love-dovey parents M.J. is forever roning with his saueazing, podgy 12-year-old sister and stealing her pocket money for a very funny joke etc. until mom and pop give him a dose of their snooty hippie "philosophy" and he sees the error of his ways etc. etc. etc.

Please please please can you confirm or deny the rumours that the next Prefab Sprout album is to be sold by mail order, and that there are only 25,000 copies available? If so, where can I obtain a copy? Life won't be worth living without one...
G., 'loyal P.S. fan' Douglas, Glasgow

• The album in question is called "Protest Songs", and was recorded this autumn. It contains nine songs, all new except for one – "Diana" – and is supposedly rather more "direct and political" than their previous works. It will be a limited edition of 25,000, but it's not being sold by mail order – you'll be able to buy it in the shops just like any other record. The "Sprouts" explain that it's not the "proper" follow-up to "Steve McQueen", as it was recorded very quickly and cheaply, but it will sell at the normal price "because it's worth it". The proper new album will be recorded later in the year, and will be "much more polished and lavish". However, "Protest Songs" won't be released until after their next single, "Johnny Johnny" (a song off their last LP), originally called "Goodbye Lucille #1" – we'll keep you posted.



Prefab Sprout. Mean ninn ninn

HOW TO GET SMASH HITS THROUGH YOUR LETTERBOX!

This is a desperate plea from someone who went to England two years ago, bought your magazine there, and has been a loyal follower since. It's difficult to get *Smash Hits* here in Spain, as my newsagent receives just a few issues. I'd like to subscribe so that I'll receive it at home, not having to fight with anybody for the only issue left at the newsagent's. Is this possible?

David/Pablo Fort, Madrid.
• Indeed it is possible. "pop chum" – in fact, you can subscribe to *Smash Hits* from the "furtherst flung corners of the globe" (as they say in doggy old Greg schoolbooks).

The annual rates are:
UK/Eire £17.00
Airmail Europe/Scandinavia £29.00
Airmail USA/Canada £41.00
Airmail Australia/New Zealand \$44.00

Airmail rates to other parts of the world vary between £35.50 and £44.00 – details will be sent on request.

Airmail delivery is very quick – about 10 days from date of publication – but if it's too expensive, you can subscribe by "surface mail" (i.e. by ship), a snip at £19.00 per year to anywhere in the world. Delivery time will then be two weeks to Europe, six weeks to the USA, and – gulp – five months to Australia.

The address to write to with queries or subscription orders is: **Smash Hits Subscriptions, Competition House, Farnham Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9JR, England.**

All money should be sent as International Money Orders (pounds sterling), but you don't need to send any stamps or International Reply Coupons. Oh, and don't forget to include your name and address clearly (i.e. in block capitals).

ELTON AND GEORGE

JOHN

MICHAEL

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EJSP 10



1985 was quite a year for Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal. They had hits just about everywhere else. They went round the world at the world's biggest pop concert. And Roland had a front row on their tours? More rows? No, actually. But, according to Roland,

“we’re going to weird out



they had a number one single and album in America and massive
page row with his dad. So what about 1986? More hits? More

like you wouldn't believe!"

WORDS: CHRIS HEATH

Yeah," chuckles Curt. "It did seem easy, especially in America. Even though we've done a lot of work, things seem to have taken off very quickly. If we felt like we could carry it for ten years."

Roland and Curt are exhausted but clearly rather pleased with themselves. Who can blame them? As the beginning of 1985 they were just one of a promising second rate band — two white-rock Brits whose career was looking decidedly staid. A year later they've just completed a 144 date world tour, have had number one hits just about everywhere, and number ones sold and have sold more of their "Songs From The Big Chair" LP.

Not bad — especially for a band which, according to the daily papers, have been on the verge of spinning out for the last six months, something the two of them obviously find vaguely amusing.

"It started because I was asked the very simple question of 'have I ever felt like leaving the tour?' and I said 'yes'," remembers Curt. "It seemed like a simple answer to me at the time — everybody's bound to feel like leaving their job now and again."

But he didn't, though neither of them are prepared to remain static about Tears For Fears as something that will go on forever. "We're bound to split up one day," says Roland, hopefully. "If there's some thing I don't like about being in a duo, it's that it's always Curt is pushing-and-but, Roland is such-and-such, it's always the difference between us, which is a load of rubbish."

So the sort of thing they don't like is the way, for instance, some newspapers like to see George Michael as the shiny, pure, talented member of Wham! and Andrew Ridgeley as the most horrible person in the world?

"Matrimony," says Curt, "but he probably isn't he? That's the sort of blither you get. Tears For Fears make all the time. 'The problem is,'" laughs Curt, "that too many people take us seriously."

Roland agrees. "People mistake us for a couple of boys who could give a toss."

The fact is they spend much more time tooting about than being serious. Like when the subject of Live Aid comes up. "What? You mean there is another one?" jokes Curt.

"Bob didn't have the guts to come and ask us himself so he's sent you instead," roars Roland.

Eventually, though, they calm down. "I'm definitely glad we didn't do it," insists Roland. "The conditions under which it was done were OK for a 4-piece rock band like Led Zeppelin. I mean US... but I think it would have been embarrassing for us to do it. Though there's no way we'd have been as big as the Thompson Twins or Duran Duran."

Basically we weren't into the whole event. It was glad somebody had found a use for all the money that pop music makes — it's definitely an improvement on "sending out good vibes all around the world" and "live final show." We did it our way — we donated the money from our concerts in London, Sydney, Tokyo and New York. That's our part. We didn't get to play in front of millions of people which is the reason

why an awful lot of groups appeared."

What actually happened to them, they explain, is that they said yes when the original idea was first voiced but then (presumably because at that point they weren't particularly famous) no-one would confirm that they were on the bill. Then, when they suddenly had a number one single and album in America they were announced as appearing without being consulted. Because of that, and various misgivings about the whole Band Aid organisation (whether all the aid was getting there, and whether Band Aid was slipping other worthy causes getting donations) they pulled out. Their public reaction on the day — that two musicians had left there wasn't the rea-



reason, it just "kind of helped — it was a good excuse." Roland watched the concert on TV in Hawaii (the visual images of the kids starving were very powerful — the music was like the ball) while Curt kept to his "previous engagement — the beach; in the middle of a musical tour the last thing I wanted to do was watch a whole day's worth of music."

The other main controversy Tears For Fears have been involved in this year concerned Roland's father. When Roland was seven, his mother took him and his two brothers away from Portsmouth where his French father, "an engineer and part time philosopher", ran an "entertainment agency". His father apparently used to treat Roland very badly and when they last saw each other a few years back, they parted on very poor terms. After some of Roland's recollections of the childhood were published in *The Mirror*, his father got in touch with the paper and sent them a story about Roland's fearlessness, including a letter Roland had written to his father a few years back calling him a "violent monster", "a leech" and "a worm" — "most go back to your grave".

The story even made the front page on *The Sun*: "DEAR DAD: YOU ARE A WORM". It was very upset, very upset," says Roland sadly. "What can I say? I didn't know whether

my father was dead. I hadn't heard from him for a long time — he's a bit of a spectre in my life.

"No one will really understand. The letter that I wrote to him, I wrote very much in his language. He uses lots of symbolism himself in the way he writes and speaks so I wrote it using his symbolism because I knew that's what would hurt most."

Perversely there was one aspect of the whole affair that Roland quite relished — *The Sun* cartoon showing a note from Roland pinned to a door by a stilet and someone shouting to his father sitting in a chair inside. It's another note from Roland: "It shows the humorous side of an incredibly sad and embarrassing affair," says Roland. "A flicker of light of the whole thing, which is what, because it or not. Roland chose to have a trademark gatefold sleeve of *The Bunch* for all new audience to see, though the cover art wasn't another double entendre like the *Tears* LP."

Partly because of the *Tears* LP. Tears For Fears are fast becoming a band with a "public eye" and are very open, say, see no new *Tears* For Fears records as all three. Instead they're going to make their time when the third LP comes out with to release an album or so which they'll have a lot of to compare it to. They've also got a dog and cats. They are, however, going to do their public spinning in America by releasing new versions of "Mothers Talk" with a new cast out, with the harmonies we do on "Change" and "Pale Shelter" with the lyrics to match. Not that they think it's going to take them a year to write the new songs — in fact they've got one done already.

It's called *The Bad Man*, says Roland. "It's quite solo, the singing is quite expressive. It was basically inspired by an overheard conversation, it was in a hotel room in America and the next door were staying up late drinking and I heard them talking about me. Basically our new were bad-mouthing me to such an extent that I wasn't aware the effect I had on people. It made me think."

The next day the chorus came to me just like that, and the funny thing was I started singing it at that night's soundcheck — in my head there is a mirror / food for the same that are quick to judge me / hope for the bad man, this is the bad man, to such an extent that I wasn't aware the effect I had on people. I thought 'yeah, well...'

"Still, they both intend to avoid all that sort of thing in 1986 — their year of 'freedom.' "All I want to do," laughs Curt, "is go on shows like *Happy* and an award."

"I can't really say much about what we'll be doing next," says Roland with a smile, "but it seems to me that in our own small way, we're doing something quite magical. We're very different and separate from most of the groups that are around nowadays. A lot of what everyone's doing is old hat."

"People are going to be in awe a bit too much about us, so the year we're going to weird out like you wouldn't believe!"

TEARS FOR FEARS/20 QUESTIONS/OVER THE PAGE

TEARS FOR FEARS

20 QUESTIONS

Previous questions?

Roland: Nope. I'd like to be a fashion photographer. I like all those magazines — I don't read them, I just look at the pictures. I like beautiful women in clothes.

Curt: I've never had a real job. I wanted to be a teacher. Maybe I still will.

Any brothers and sisters?

Roland: I've got two proper brothers, one younger and one older. Julian, 22, works at our 'fan club' and Carl, 25, works as a lather-tuner. I've also got two half-brothers and one half-sister. One half-brother is 31 and is a funeral director in Brisbane, Australia. The other one is about 35 and lives in Portsmouth. I think he's an electrician. And I've got two sisters. One of Worcester and is an actress. And I've got a mother.

Curt: I've got one brother, Bash — he's a lather-tuner and a painter. And I've got one brother, I think, a singer, who works at the fan club. He's got a home, Southampton, and he's never visited his brother.

What one word sums up Curt?

Roland: Curt, he means. Short, cute and sharp.

And Roland?

Roland: How about something modest, like 'intelligent'.

Curt: 'Sir'?

Roland: Yeah, that's good.

What do you pay to be on a witness stand?

Roland: God is dead. That's a quote Nietzsche (what German philosopher was a bit of a pessimist about almost everything).

Curt: I had a big argument with one of them once at the front door about the fact that he just believed in God because he couldn't believe in himself.

If you had to be on a quiz show, which one would you be on?

Curt: *Call My Bluff*.

Roland: Definitely. We play it a lot at home with a dictionary. It's just an anagrams game. My favourite word? 'Whinged' — a Chinese walking stick or 'Poltron' — a spiteful coward.

Curt: And 'Kee', which is a New Zealand patoot which feeds on goats for their liver lats.

What's the strangest fan letter you've ever had?

Curt: I don't get the strange ones — Roland gets them all.

Roland: You should read fan's (Stanley, JRF, keyboard player) He gets quite a few very nice. This girl wanted to bath with him in jelly.

What music would you play at a party at your house?

Roland: Probably Talking Heads or Grace Jones. 'Fear Of Music' and 'Remain In Light' by Talking Heads.

Curt: Yeah, the same, and Lou Reed's 'Scary Monsters' by David Bowie. And if I'm having a dinner party I play classical music.

Have you ever been up on a woman?

Roland: Yeah, twice, once when I was about 17 or 18 and then again when I was about 19. Just to see what it was like. I look really much better so a girl — when you're 17 you could go either way.

Curt: No. I dressed up as the back end of a dog once though.

What's your favourite Tears For Fears song?

Roland: I like 'Emotion' (album), 'Lovers' (The Working Hour).

Curt: 'The Working Hour', 'I Believe', 'Shout'... it changes.

What's the favourite thing from your childhood which you've still got?

Roland: My penis.
Curt: My birth certificate.

What song by anyone (it can be you) most will you would write?

Roland: 'Fries Of Peace' by Paul McCartney. And 'Still Crazy After All These Years' by Paul Simon. I wish I'd written that. I find writing it agent and changing the words but it wasn't as good.

Curt: 'Things I Wish I'd Written', 'Family Snapshot' by Peter Dinklage, deceptively.

What's your favourite type of food?

Roland: The yellow one.
Curt: The red ones — strawberry. Oh no, we'll probably get Cyril Fink thrown on the stage now. We mentioned figs lots once and we had figs 'n'le thrown on the stage.

Roland: We used to get lots of carrots thrown on the stage because I said on the radio once that I liked 'The Carrot'.

Curt: I used to get hats thrown on stage and people giving me hats because a guy was interviewing me and obviously his tape machine wasn't working very well and he asked if I could do anything and I said 'yes, I've got five cats' and he wrote down that I collect hats!

Roland: We also get paper darts thrown at us during 'Pale Shelter' because that's what happens in the video.

Curt: And we have had a live tortoise and a couple of frogs on stage in Canada. Apparently the tortoise was the symbol of the place.

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Do you and Desmond? Seeking Suits?

Roland: No.
Curt: He, and I've got no plans to see it either. Mind you, I would find seeing Madonna a waste.

What's your favourite Desmond? Seeking Suits?

Roland: Yes.
Curt: Yes.

Who has your most interesting?

Roland: Well, I liked one place in the street and sell it but I think it's the 'fans' that buy it.
Curt: My wily buys mine from Marie & Spencer

What's the most horrendous thing about your body?

Roland: The bags under my eyes. — I could do without them.

Curt: I could do with bigger teeth so my guitar didn't show so much.

What's the naughtiest thing you did as a child?

Roland: I was caught when I was five years old in the shed in the garden completely naked with a lot of a girl having a muck about, playing football and outcast. My mother caught me and she was a bit annoyed. I don't know why. Apart from that I stole some sweets' pook from a shop. And I told somebody — one of my father's friends — exactly what he said about her. My dad says you're a slag!

Curt: The list is endless — I wouldn't even know where to start. I was a naughty boy, I stole a few violins and a few milk bottles from outside people's houses. I was a little Napoleoniac when I was young.

Who would you like to be on the set with? Bono, Madonna, Michael Jackson, or someone else?

Roland: I'd like to be on the set with Bono, Madonna, Michael Jackson, or someone else.

Curt: I'd like to be on the set with Bono, Madonna, Michael Jackson, or someone else.

What's your favourite Desmond? Seeking Suits?

Roland: Yes.
Curt: Yes.

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Roland: Yes.
Curt: Yes.



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WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

■ Just some of the weird things Pop Stars told SMASH HITS in...

■ JANUARY

"I feel like in a past life I was a lion or cat or something." **Madonna**

"The ideal age to be a pop star is about 8 or 9. When you're 23 you ought to be into art galleries or antiques." **Roland Orzabal** (Tears For Fears)

"I can be really snotty to people - I always acted like a star long before I was one."

Madonna

"Black Lace? What's that?" **Russ Abbot**

"I may well end up being a 22-year-old hermit." **George Michael**

"I wouldn't mind being the Tommy Steele of the '80s." **Paul King**



"The earth's never moved for me." **George Michael**

■ FEBRUARY

"To be honest I thought I knew a lot more about contraception. It was just one of those little things that happens." **Alison Moyet** on her pregnancy.

"It hasn't got a cow's face and it doesn't moo, so people don't think it's animals." **Morrissey** on meat.

"I'll have hot steak and hot spinach and hot carrots and hot chips and hot steak AND hot veal and hot spaghetti and hot chips and hot carrots and hot chips and hot peas and hot pizza..." **Mark O'Toole** placing an order in an Italian restaurant.

"Being a woman in rock is the same as being anyone in anything else." **Pat Benatar**



"Boy George reminds me of an aubergine - all shiny and plump." **Paul Young**

"Wham! seem to be quite enterprising youngsters. Boy George, on the other hand, seems to be rather a confused young man - but then aren't we all these days, dear?" **Mick Jagger**

"Chickens are a very great comfort to me - they're very lanky." **Alison Moyet**

"I've so many enemies, it's quite distressing. I don't want to go skiing with Spandau Ballet or anything, but still it's quite tiresome, this constant barrier of hate." **Morrissey**

■ MARCH

"Sometimes I feel like going swimming in a pair of concrete stilettoes." **Marilyn**

"If I go into someone's house and there's an Eric Clapton record in their collection, I just walk out." **Jon Moss** (Culture Club)

"I don't want to be on the back of a *Comfakes* packet." **Pete Burns**

"I'm not a big chest fetish guy - but one can fantasise, can't one?" **Bryan Adams**
"A couple of days ago I was in *W.H. Smith* and there was this kid with his mother and he was staring at me all the time. In the end he said 'Mum, what's that?' and the mother pulled him away, saying 'Oh, that's just a queer.'" **Pete Burns**

■ APRIL

"I don't think I'll be wearing flares again no matter what anyone says." **Nik Kershaw**

"Do I think The Beatles pose a threat to Tears For Fears? Naaah, one of them's dead." **Roland Orzabal** (Tears For Fears)

"Spare me tears - they don't solve a bloody thing." **Bob Geldof**
"Why aren't there any of the Queen Mother blowing her nose?" **Nick Rhodes** judging the *Smash Hits* photography competition.

■ MAY

"Success is a bit of a double-edged thing." **Theresa Bazar**



"I don't know what you can do with those sorts of people. The only way to deal with them is to get rid of them. I don't know what else you can do but shoot them." **Paul Weller** on people who go hunting.

"We don't allow people to make jokes in our company. Anyone on the crew who's ever seen with a smile on their faces, we let them go." **Bono**

"All the girls - take your clothes off. All the boys - watch. Let's have an orgy." **Tony Hadley** (Spandau Ballet) on stage in LA (maaan).

"I think I speak for everyone when I say this may be a small step for Wham! but a great step for the youth of the world!" **George Michael** arriving in China.

"After Wham! I think pop music in China will come to an end." **George Michael** leaving China.

■ JUNE

"We could copy Wham! but I'd have to lose so much weight. And I'd look pretty stupid

STAR TEASER

EASY LOVER
 ENDLESS LOVE
 I FEEL LOVE
 I LOVE ROCK'N'ROLL
 LADY LOVE ME
 LOVE ACTION
 LOVE AND PRIDE
 LOVE DON'T LIVE
 HERE ANYMORE
 LOVE GAMES
 LOVE IS A BATTLEFIELD
 LOVE KILLS
 LOVE LIES LOST
 LOVE LIKE BLOOD
 LOVE ME TENDER
 LOVE PLUS ONE
 LOVER COME BACK
 TO ME
 LOVE SONG
 LOVE X LOVE
 MODERN LOVE
 PART TIME LOVER
 PENNY LOVER
 RAGE TO LOVE
 SLAVE TO LOVE
 TAINTED LOVE
 THAT OLD DEVIL
 CALLED LOVE
 THE POWER OF LOVE
 TRUE LOVE WAYS
 YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE
 WHAT IS LOVE?

D L E I F E L T T A B A S I E V L L
 L E V O L S I T A H W R Y L P L E
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 A P V I E H L D I O E S W O F O V O
 H E A O T L O A P S O P A R L I E L
 T T R U M T E V O L O T E G A R T

All the names above are hidden in the diagram. They could run horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Some run backwards. **Remember that the 0s are all at an interrupted straight line whatever way they run.**

ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE

CONCERTS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

DEPECHE MODE: Brighton Centre (March 31), Cublin ROS Stadium (April 2), Belfast Kings Hall (4), Glasgow SEC (6), Whitley Bay Rock (7), Birmingham NEC (10), Bristol Hippodrome (13), Bournemouth International Centre (14), London Wembley Arena (16).

MARILLION (EXTRA DATE): London Hammermith Odeon (February 1).
 ■ Tickets are priced at £5.50 and £5.50 and are on sale now.

SIMPLE MINDS: Birmingham National Exhibition Centre (February 23/24), Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre Glasgow (26/27), London Wembley Arena (March 2/3).

■ Tickets for the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre are priced £8 and £7 (including booking fee) and applications can be made by post to the NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NF. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to NEC (Simple Minds) and you should also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Please allow one week for tickets by postal order and three weeks by cheque. Tickets for the London dates are £8 and £7 (including booking fee) and are available by post application only, with a maximum of four tickets per application. The address is Simple Minds, PO Box 2, London W8 0LQ, and payments should be made - by cheque or postal order - to MCP-L33. Please enclose an s.a.e. and indicate which night you prefer - if they have already sold out, letters for an alternative night will be sent. Please allow one week for postal orders and three weeks for cheques. Tickets for the Scottish dates (also £8 and £7 including booking fee and VAT) are on sale by personal application between 10am and 5pm, on December 14 and 15 at the SEC, and in Edinburgh at Rapping Records. From December 16 tickets will also be available from usual agencies throughout Scotland.

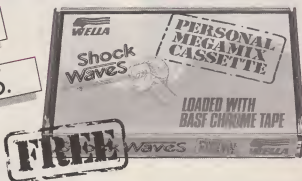
ANSWERS FROM PAGE 38

ACROSS: 1 Hit Street Blues; 12 (Vim) Chatterer; 14 Propaganda; 15 and 35 down: Duran Duran; 16 'The Power Of Love'; 19 Sade; 20 (Phyllis) Nelson; 22 and 18 down 'Living On Video'; 23 Dave (Stewart); 24 '(Do) Not (Disturb)'; 25 (Janis) Long; 27 (Between The) Wars; 30 (Mena) Vidal; 31 Oval; 38 Caruso; 40 Noddy Holder; 43 (Widge) Ure; 44 Leslie (C) Ash (Mera); 45 and 46 'We Close Our Eyes'; 47 'I'll) On Fire'; 52 and 11 down: Michael Brandon; 53 Rah (Band); 54 'Obsession'; 85 'Easy (Love)'

DOWN: 1 'Happy New Year'; 2 and 28 Lionel Richie; 3 (Power) Station; 4 'Road To Nowhere!'; 5 and 79 down 'That Ole Devil Called Love'; 6 Urv Ash; 7 Eurovision Song Contest; 8 Madonna; 10 Red (Box); 13 Pussell (Harly); 17 (A New) England; 21 (Art) O' Nease; 25 Go West; 29 Level (42); 32 (USA) For Africa; 34 and 58 Lucio Ende; 36 Custin (Hoffman); 37 Russ Abbot; 39 Madness; 41 'I Say) Yeah'; 42 (Big) Deal; 48 (Scorp) Politz; 50 Simon Is Born; 51 Nave (Order); 53 St Elmo's (Fury); 54 Foangal (Sharky); 56 Thompson (Twins); 60 and 6 'We Don't Need) Another Hero'; 64 Arcada; 68 and 34 across: Sister Sledge; 71 Cure; 73 (Kate) Bush; 74 Yoko (Ono); 75 Ouse; 76 Man (Ivan) Wilson; 77 Lace; 80 It's (Called A Heart)

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WELLA
WHATEVER NEXT?



SMASH HITS PET SHOP BOYS

A M A Z U L U

DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT



S O P H I A G E O R G E

GIRLIE GIRLIE

CHORUS

YOUNG MAN YOU TOO GIRLIE GIRLIE
YOU JUS A FLASH IT ROUND THE WORLDE
YOUNG MAN YOU TOO GIRLIE GIRLIE
YOU JUS A FLASH IT ROUND THE WORLDE

HIM HAVE ONE UP THERE ONE DOWN THERE
ONE IN NANOVER ONE DOWN A VERE
ONE SNE'S A LAWYER ONE SNE'S A DOCTOR
ONE WEN DEN WORK WITH A LITTLE
CONTRACTOR
ONE DOWN A EAST ONE DOWN A WEST
NIM HAVE ONE UP HORTH AND TWO DOWN SOUTH
ONE A SELL CIGARETTE ON THE ROUNDABOUT
LORD EN

REPEAT CHORUS

HIM HAVE ONE OO A SCHOOL ONE GAWN FOOL
FOOL
HIM HAVE ONE EVERY TIME ME SAV SHE THINK A
SNE RULE
ONE SHE A NURSE SHE SAV SHE COME FIRST
THE OTHER NIGHT THEM GOING OUT DEN PICK
HER NEW PURSE
ONE A SELL STAR ONE WORK INNA BAR
A SHE CAN SMILE WHEN THE TWO A DEN A SPAR
ONE GETTIE GETTIE ONE FRETTE FRETTE
AND HIM HO DRINK HO OTHER MILK BUT BETTY

REPEAT CHORUS THREE TIMES

HIM HAVE ONE UP THERE ONE DOWN THERE
ONE IN NANOVER ONE DOWN A VERE
ONE SNE'S A LAWYER ONE SNE'S A DOCTOR
ONE WEN DEN WORK WITH A LITTLE
CONTRACTOR
ONE DOWN A EAST ONE DOWN A WEST
ONE UP A HORTH AND TWO DOWN SOUTH
ONE A OO SCHOOL AND ONE FOOL FOOL

REPEAT CHORUS

A BIG FAT ONE WHO'S A OO-OO DANCER
A LITTLE SLIM ONE WHO'S A RADIO ANNOUNCER
ONE NIGHTY TIGHTY ONE FLIGHTY FLIGHTY
AND BEFORE HIM GROW OLD WANT ONE A HORTH
POLE
ONE INNA LONDON ONE INNA JAPAN
ONE INNA SCOTLAND ONE INNA FINLAND
ONE INNA TAIWAN ONE INNA IRAH
ONE INNA GREENLAND ONE INNA ICELAND
ONE INNA CANADA ONE JOAHDA
ONE AMERICA ONE CUBA
ONE ANTIQUA ONE INNA GREHADA
ONE A CHINA AND ONE INDIA
ONE BOLIVIA ONE TORUGA
ONE ONANA ONE ETIOPIA
ONE RUSSIA ONE SIBERIA
ONE SYRIA ONE TANZANIA
ONE AUSTRALIA

WORDS AND MUSIC BY A DAVIS
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION SHAD MUSIC
ON WINNER RECORDS

BABY BABY WHEN YOU TAKE ME OUT STROLLIN'
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)
YOU GOT ME ROCKIN' WHEN I DUGHT TO BE ROLLIN'
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)

CHORUS
HA HA HA HA (HA HA HA HA)
HEY OH (HEY OH)
A GUBA GUBA OUBA GUBA (GUBA GUBA GUBA GUBA)
HA HA HA HA (HA HA HA HA)
HA HA HA HA (HA HA HA HA)
HEY OH (HEY OH)

BABY BABY YOU'RE MY BLUE HEAVEN
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)

YOU OOT ME PUSKIN' WHEN I DUGHT TO BE SHOVIN'
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)

REPEAT CHORUS TWICE

BABY BABY WHEN THE FIRE IS GLOWIN'
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)
YOU OOT ME RACHIN' WHEN I DUGHT TO BE SLOWIN'
(DON'T YOU JUST KNOW IT)

REPEAT CHORUS TO FADE

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JULY SMITH AND JOHN VINCENT
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION EMI MUSIC PUBS LTD
ON ISLAND RECORDS



STARSHIP

WE BUILT THIS CITY

WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL
 BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL

SAY YOU DON'T KNOW ME
 OR RECOGNISE MY FACE
 SAY YOU DON'T CARE WHO GOES
 TO THAT KIND OF PLACE
 KNEE-DEEP IN THE HOOP-LA
 SINKING IN YOUR FIGHT
 TOO MANY RUNAWAYS
 EATING UP THE NIGHT

CHORUS

MARCOHI PLAYS THE MAMBA
 LISTEN TO THE RADIO
 DON'T YOU REMEMBER
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL
 BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL

SOMEONE ALWAYS PLAYING
 CORPORATION GAMES
 WHO CARES
 THEY'RE ALWAYS CHANGING
 CORPORATION NAMES
 WE JUST WANT TO DANCE HERE
 SOMEONE STOLE THE STAGE
 THEY CALL US IRRESPONSIBLE
 WRITE US OFF THE PAGE

REPEAT CHORUS

IT'S JUST ANOTHER SUNDAY
 IN A TIRD OLD STREET
 POLICE HATE GOT THE TIE-HOLD
 AND WE JUST LOST THE BEAT

WHO COUNTS THE MOHEY
 UNDERHEATH THE BAR
 WHO RIDES THE WRECKING BALL
 INTO OUR GUITARS
 DON'T TELL US YOU NEED US
 'CAUSE WE'RE THE SIMPLE FOOLS
 LOOKING FOR AMERICA
 CALLING THROUGH YDUR SCHDOLS
 (LODGING OUT OYER THAT
 GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
 ON ANOTHER GORGEOUS
 SUNNY SATURDAY
 AND I'M SEEING
 THAT BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC)
 DON'T YOU REMEMBER
 IT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RADIO
 STATION
 YOUR FAVOURITE RADIO CITY
 THE CITY BY THE BAY
 THE CITY THAT ROCKS
 THE CITY THAT HEYER LEEPS!

REPEAT CHORUS

BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL
 BUILT THIS CITY
 WE BUILT THIS CITY
 ON ROCK AND ROLL

(WE BUILT THIS CITY)
 REPEAT TO FADE

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
 TALVIN PAGE LAMBERT WOLF
 REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION
 INTERSONG MUSIC LTD ZOMBA MUSIC
 PUB LTD A TV MUSIC LTD COPYRIGHT
 CONTROL ON RCA RECORDS



CAMEO

SHE'S STRANGE

(STRANGE)

OH FINE LADY OH

I LIKE THE WAY SHE WALKS
 I LIKE THE WAY SHE TALKS
 AND SHE TURNS ME ON
 WITH A SPECIAL CONCERN
 NOW I'M A DIFFERENT GUY
 AND I DON'T COMPARE TO MANY
 BUT NEXT TO HER
 I'M FLAHI ORDINARY
 HOT MANY CAN SEE
 THE LIGHT BLUE AURA
 THAT SURROUNDS THE GIRL
 WHEREVER IN THE WORLD
 SHE'S BITTERSWEET
 AND A TACO TREAT

(SHE'S STRANGE)

AND I LIKE IT

(SHE'S STRANGE)

JUST THE WAY SHE IS

(STRANGE)

WALKING DOWN THE AVENUE

(SHE'S STRANGE)

ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING NEW

SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON
 EVERYBODY KNOWS
 SHE REEKS DISTINCTION
 FROM HEAD TO TOE
 SHE'S MY TWILIGHT ZONE
 MY AL CAPONE
 SHE'S MY ROLLING STONES
 AND MY EYA PEROH

(AND I LIKE IT)

YES I LIKE IT

(I LIKE IT)

THE WAY SHE WEARS HER HAIR

(AND I LIKE IT)

(I LIKE IT)

IN ROOM 123 SHE'S ELUSIVELY SEEN
 LIKE THE HYRIBILE MAN IN DRAD
 AND WHEN YOU COME TO MEET HER
 YOU HEYER GREET HER
 SHE'LL BE WAITING HER SKIRT
 AS A FLAG

LIKE A COLD IN OCTOBER

SHE'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT DYER

IT'S NOT MEAN TO BE FACETIOUS

AND THAT LOOK IN HER EYE

SAYS YOU'RE THE GUY

SHE PLANS TO SPEND
 THIS EYERING WITH

(SHE'S STRANGE)

AND I LIKE IT

(AND I LIKE IT)

(SHE'S STRANGE)

JUST THE WAY SHE IS

(JUST THE WAY SHE IS)

(STRANGE)

WALKING DOWN THE AVENUE

(SHE'S STRANGE)

ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING NEW

HO HO NO HO HO

KNOCK ME OFF MY FEET

(STRANGE)

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
 BLACKMAN SINGLETON TISHMAN JENKINS
 REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION
 COPYRIGHT CONTROL
 ON CLUB RECORDS



IMAGINATION

COULD MAKE A MAN OF YOU



BELOUIS

some

A 7 INCH & 12 INCH
 DUE JANUARY 6th



"I have never enjoyed myself so much before. I will be recommending your holidays to everyone."
 Pennie Holden Frames Travel, Northampton



"I will certainly recommend Club 18-30 to clients. Very impressed."
 Alison Widders WH Smith, Exeter



"I had a fantastic time and the Reps really did their best. I would thoroughly recommend a Club 18-30 Holiday."
 Sharon Beech Bath Travel, Ringwood



"I would personally recommend any young person looking for a great holiday to try Club 18-30."
 Virginia Ruth Pickford's Travel, London SE15



"18-30s is a much better product than I had believed before. I was very impressed. The Reps were unflinching in their determination to make sure we had a good time."
 Jane Rowley Jasmin Travel, Maidenhead



"Club 18-30 Holidays are the best young people's holidays."
 Sue Lewis WH Smith, Wolverhampton



"As I have sampled for myself the activities and atmosphere on a Club 18-30 Holiday I can recommend them with assurance and confidence."
 E. Chaytor Hogg Robinson, Reading



"People have had the wrong impression of Club 18-30 for far too long, now we all know better."
 Yvonne Cassap Solstice Travel, Liverpool



"We can now put people right about the 18-30's reputation. Great fun - excellent."
 Teresa Crick Deane Travel, Bndgewater



"I was a bit apprehensive about coming by myself, but Club 18-30 has proved that the young can go on holiday alone. Thanks for everything."
Jackie Barry Explorations, Hendon



"I never thought I could have so much fun. I don't think I've ever laughed so much in my life. The Reps are a credit to the company. I am definitely going to promote this product, because it's the best on the market."
Sarah Gardiner Clunkers Travel, Chandlers Ford



"Having never been on an 18-30 Holiday before, I had rather a sceptical attitude towards it, but now I feel I could sell virtually any Club 18-30 Holiday to every young person who comes to our Agency. Everything about it was fantastic, you were made to feel totally at ease, and not pressurised into anything contrary to popular belief."
Ariene Sharpe Munroe Travel, Liverpool

How could any travel agent possibly recommend a Club 18-30 holiday.

Before you rush off to book your next summer holiday we thought you might like to meet a few travel agents.

As experts, and purely in the line of duty, they have all at some time experienced a trip abroad with Club 18-30 and lived to tell the tale.

You may find their comments interesting. For some reason, the odd one or two seem to have had a few misgivings before they went, and were surprised when they found out that it was all so much fun. Strange really, when you consider that people have been having a good time on Club 18-30 holidays for over eighteen years.

You know, sometimes we can't understand where people's ideas about Club 18-30 come from. These people got their ideas on a real live Club 18-30 holiday. Where did you get yours?



Where do some people get their ideas?

SMASH HITS/LEVI'S 501'S COMPETITION

LEVI'S JEANS, SWEATSHIRTS, AUTOGRAPHED LPs, POSTERS AND TICKETS TO BE WON. OH YEAH, AND GET TO MEET STING, TOO!

rousers say so much about a man, don't you agree? Things like "hello, do you like my trousers?" Things like "darling, I love you but I adore my trousers!" Things like "hello!" in a famous pop star and better than yours, in so no no na!!" Sting is just one such man. He wears Levi's 501's. Not just because Levi's are sponsoring his UK tour, but because he thinks they're pretty ruddy. And, of course, he's right. Jealous? No need, fashion swots for now - thanks to the miracles of jeans manufacturer's generosity - a pair of Levi's 501's could be yours absolutely free! And that is by no means all: we're also offering ONE 501 sweatshirt (mmm!), ONE copy of Sting's "The Dream Of The Blue Turtles" LP signed by HIM (humm), ONE PAIR of tickets to Sting's Albert Hall concert on January 21 (humm), and ONE noah up for you and a friend in Levi's "hospitality suite" at the Albert Hall after the show (yumm!).

Go what's the catch, you ask? Er, well, even *things* don't give with all that you also have to go backstage and meet Sting. But, well, desperation, there's always the second prize (a pair of 501's - a sweatshirt, a signed album and a pair of tickets to the show and no backstage meeting with Sting!) or the 48 runner-up prizes (pairs of 501's, Sting posters, plus no tickets to the show and therefore absolutely no chance of bumping into Sting!) or the 20 consolation prizes (Sting albums with autographs on the back - even Sting's even talk to him on the phone!) or 20 booby prizes (posters of Sting which you can talk off if you want but they won't talk back, sorry!). Phoooooooooooo!

And the big trouser-wig question is: On which of these album sleeves is there NOT a picture of a bloke in jeans?
 a) "Born in the USA" by Bruce Springsteen
 b) "After The Gold Rush" by Neil Young
 c) "So Real This Time" by Arcadia
 d) "Back Road Forward" by REO Speedwagon

Answers on a postcard or the back of an envelope. To Smash Hits Sting's Trousers Competition, 14 Holldam Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 9YJ by January 14.



COMPETITION WINNERS

● **Prize Quiz** (November 6)
 Correct answers:
Question 1: A - true, B - false, C - false, D - false, E - true, F - true, G - false.
Question 2: A - C, C - D, D - E - B, F - C - G - Question 3: A - a & d, B - b - C - b & c, D - a & b, E - b - c, F - G - E - H - b - c, D - a - b - c - G - D - E - c - Question 4: A - d, B - f - C - e - H - e, G - F - C - G - a - H - h - Question 7: A - C - B - C - d, D - b - E - a - Question 8: A - Cadbury's Smooth, B - Wreath, C - Highland Park, D - Access, E - Monster March, F - Heinz Invaders Soup, G - Sugar Puffs. **Question 9:** A - Live Is Life, B - Brand New Friend, C - Lavender, D - Running Up That Hill, E - White Wedding, F - Don Quixote. **Question 10:** A - c, B - e, C - a, D - b, E - g, F - d, G - f.

Neiswick, Camo, Suzanne King, Essex, Wayne Radell, Gwent, Laura Wilson, Ipswich, Sarah Ritchie, Ruxton, Jane Elcock, Chesham, Eddie Izzard, Liverpool.
 The next 25 with a Smash Hits shirt: W. D. Trimble, Shrewsbury, Diana Chappell, Lincs, David Spaul, Haverhill, Ian Hammond, South, Georgia Mills, Murgess, Amanda Hunt, Warrington, C. G. S. J. Hales, Tipton, Crawley, Herts, Richard Nuttall, Leicester, Elly Taylor, Cardiff, Nigel Pansy, Lincs, Cantle Rash, Camo, Roger Dennis, Warrs, B. Benjamin, Cambridge, Helen Pansell, Sussex, Martin Rajah, Manchester, Lisa Hamilton, Suffolk, Nicholas Young, Doncaster, G. S. J. Hales, Tipton, Crawley, Herts, Jack Rucker, Norfolk, Anthony Burgess, Hants, Angela Lane, Wilt, Ten Chambers, Leicester. Jane Macreath, Croydon.

● **Computer Competition** (November 6)
 Correct answer: c) Carl Douglas.
 E. Sale from Islington as the "lucky" winner who takes away the computer plus books and games. The software included winners receive a computer game, *Stella Salazar*, Essex, A. Whitlock, Birmingham, David Hutton, Huddersfield, Philipp Hegger, Solihull, I. Port, Colchester, Lisa Pater,

Corwall, C. Fauder, Gt. Yarmouth, Gillian Roy, Ruth David Edwards, West Poles, Robert Salomon, Essex, Mark Chambers, Gillingham, R. E. Matter, Ipswich, S. Booth, Preston, Kim Kenworthy, London, Andrew Hill, Bristol, Janet Barker, Bradford, Philip Peat, London, Ian Rams, Swansea, M. Pearce, Telford, J. H. McCulloch, Harrogate, Diana Tall, Macclesfield, Marc Ansell, Surrey, Fano Road, Bedford, Lisa Fisher, Lincs, Alanah Stodd, Somerset, T. Hornesast, South Yorkshire, L. Granger, West Midlands, Sharon Prattford, Shropshire, Catherine Hayden, Surrey, Peter Gray, South, S. Hank, Suffolk, S. Bard, Dorset, Warren Jennings, Essex, Ian Hood, Hedges, Steve Dargatz, Essex, R. D. Raine, Cheshire, Christopher Bell, Huddersfield, Nicola Ward, South, Barry Garratt, Rochdale, P. King, Owen R. Ford, Kent, D. French, Bournemouth, Samantha Edwards, Wiltshire, Elizabeth Gue, Stoke-on-Trent, Robert Walters, Raywood Giles Wilkes, Sheffield, Stephen Barber, Bristol, Joanna Ford, Essex, Michelle Walker, Worcester, Scott Spivey, Arno, Julia Adams, Southampton, Spencer Walters, Cumbria, Jason Dwyer, West Yorkshire, Marjy Bestwick, Dorset, S. Braeich, Cleveland, Stuart Nichols, Leicestershire, Emily Adams, Lincs, Mark Baker, Bilton, Stuart Mulcahy, Solihull, Lisa Diane,

Gepp, Daphna Kiri, Dorset, Cathy Wilby, Shropshire, Anna Clements, Leicestershire, Adam Wright, Port Talbot, James Halls, Cumbria, Shirley Ryder, Leam, Marsha Thore, Surrey, Myrtle Fox, Wiltshire, Sharon Reynolds, Kent, Julie Ansell, Somerset, Alanna Marsh, North, David Jones, Lincs, Madeline Adonis, Herts, Jet Krause, Peter D. Tymon, Hereford, D. Rida, Lincs, Steve Brown, Hants, Joanne Nepton, Kent, Lee Francis, Hammersmith, Stefan Dyer, Cleveland, Joseph Collins, Lincs, Anita Hadden, Hammersmith, Rob Crow, Wiltshire, D. Mather, Cheshire, Christine Newby, North, Sue Waller, Hants, Kim Moore, Hants, Cathie Finlayser, Aberystwyth, Scott Thornhill, Herts, Peter Watson, Hants, J. Boonham, Hants, Lisa Waidment, Peter, James Mastell, Wilt, John Watson, Nottingham, Nathan Reynolds, Cheshire, N. Baba, London, Claire Pratt, London, Sebina Green, Devon, J. Brian, Reading, Richard Swain, Portsmouth.

● **Pepsi/Band Aid Competition** (November 20)
 Correct answer: Thompson Twins.
 There isn't enough room for us to print the names of the 1000 winners, but you will be receiving your prizes through the post within the next couple of weeks (approx).

The following list winners each receive a set of a dozen bottles of Jager, plus a Big Game, Middlesex, Margaret Atwood, Birmingham, Claire



Fireworks, gold discs, spots, a lot of snow
a TV-am film crew and two very nosey

A DAY IN THE



10.00am Make-Up

✓ "I've got lots of spots," announces Morten cheerfully to the make-up artist who's here to powder their faces for the TV cameras. She slaps on loads ("it's very much needed", he says) and then moves onto Mags. He's in his usual "playful" mood and makes her life as awkward as possible, insisting that he's a "marionette" and will only do exactly what she asks him to. Meanwhile, Pål's standing in the corner looking much more serious as he whispers to his girlfriend, over from America where she goes to college.

Once they've been made up, A-ha go to the board room next door for the record company meeting. While waiting for the company toffs they have a quick peep at the video for the new single, "The Sun Always Shines On TV" which shows them playing in a church accompanied by hundreds of plastic dummies playing violins (filmed, they tell me, in St Albans Cathedral).

"We're very pleased with it," says Pål, meaning both the video and the song itself. The song is the last one they wrote, written on "one of those down days".

"Me and Mags were watching English TV on a rainy day," he explains, "and the guy announcing the programme said 'it's a rainy day but, as always, the sun always shines on TV'. The song's about the power of television, the way that television presents life."



10.15am Record Company Meeting

⌚ Six months ago this would probably have been very different: Mags, Morten and Pål would probably have smiled meekly every time they met all the important people - managing directors and so on - gathered around this table, but today quite the opposite is true. A-ha are the label's big new stars and so now everyone has to laugh at their jokes and congratulate them all the time.

First the band are shown the sleeve and magazine ads for the new single (no-one mentions that it's far too late to make any changes even if the band hate them) then they're asked to choose a photo for a new picture disc.

"You can use my head for the 12" because it's so big," chortles Mags and everyone laughs. "It's a go-ahead guys! Let's do it!" he shouts sarcastically in a fake businessman's voice once they've chosen the photo, and everyone laughs again. Then more congratulations as a record company "executive" reads out a list of their progress around the world with "Take On Me": "number one in America, Australia, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil. . . we've lost count." "Brazil in March then," decides the manager and A-ha nod.

Suddenly someone whips out from under the table - gasp! - a gold disc (for half a million British sales of "Take On Me"): "the first of many," says Morten) and they're all congratulated again. "Thanks," says Mags, "I don't have this record," and everyone has another giggle.

Tiring work, all this laughing and hockslapping, but suddenly. . . craackkk-aaaak-crak-kr-kr-kkkk-crakkkkkk!! Mags starts sniggering as smoke billows from under the table where he's just thrown a firework. What a wag, eh? It keeps burning for ages and makes a nasty mark on the plush carpet, but everyone chortles, congratulates the hand again, parrot-fashion, and off they go. . .

gging, an interview in a pub,
people from Smash Hits. . .

■ WORDS: CHRIS HEATH

■ PICTURES: PAUL RIDER

LIFE OF A-HA



11.30am Photo Session

Y "We hate studio sessions," fumes Morten. He's in a bit of a grump. Apparently A-ha have spent half of the last five months in photographic studios around the world and they're reaching the end of their tether. "It's such an insult to my creative taste," he moans indignantly. "I don't understand why people want these sort of pictures anyway. I think I look like a meatball in most of them. I just don't like glossy pictures because there's nothing to them. I'd like to be photographed going out in the street, walking about, going to a cafe, hanging out in some sort of environment." In fact, he says, this will probably be their last studio session for a long time, though he admits that going out in the street might not be that easy after all.

"Success really narrows your ability to move about," he says. "You can't go out to the shops simply because you're always going to have people coming up to you. You can't get away from it, it's always there. It's like a big poster on your head.

"I mean, we wanted to be in this position," he says as if, just sometimes, he has second thoughts about it, "but you have to learn to deal with it. It's hard."



12.30pm Leaving The Building

The idea is simple. A-ha leap out of the record company building, are mobbed by hordes of screaming fans (for the benefit of the TV cameras) and get into the car. Only trouble is, at the last count the screaming horde consists of a dozen far from hysterical girls. It's not that A-ha aren't popular, it's just that no-one particularly expects them to come out of this particular door during this particular lunchtime. The few that are here only found out because A-ha's manager "tipped off" the fan club to try and drum up a crowd. Never mind - a couple of people are dispatched outside to round up some passers-by while A-ha loiter impatiently in the foyer. Pål has another "cannoodle" with his girlfriend - something that he seems to spend most of his spare moments doing - while the others discuss the new 12" version of the single with the manager. (It turns out that, rather to their displeasure, it's already finished despite the fact that they've never even heard it. Funny business, this pop music lark.)

Finally they're given the go ahead and out they come. They get the required cheer and stop to sign autographs with the pens they were conveniently given inside (they'd refused to carry piles of photos of themselves as they thought that a bit too obvious). Morten winces as he's subjected to saucy comment after saucy comment. "My mum wants you to know that the fancies you," says one girl, "and that she plans to beat Bunty." Bunty is the girl from the "Take On Me" video who Morten is rumoured to be "seeing" and from his pained expression it's obvious he hasn't the slightest intention of giving her up for anyone's mum. After a couple of minutes he looks rather relieved to escape into the limousine, smiling weakly as the fans shout "can we hitch a lift?"

CONTINUES OVER

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A-HA



1.00pm Live News Interview

L NBC is one of the biggest news networks in America and today they're broadcasting their regular "aren't-the-British-strange?" slot live by satellite to millions of homes in America. As A-ha get ready for the filming, we see a story about the London pubs which still get their beer delivered by horse and cart (no wonder they think we're "quaint"). The band have got to do their bit in a cordoned-off area of an English pub into which the presenter has just "bopped" to wander and found them drinking (the idea being that, when not reading Shakespeare and going on double-decker buses, most people in Britain spend their life in "quaint" English pubs).

A-ha grin and bear it as the interviewer runs through a few of the banal questions he's jotted on his clipboard (he'd probably never even heard of A-ha this time yesterday) and afterwards admit it was hardly the most suitable place for the interview. Pål only drinks occasionally - "I hate that funny feeling so I save up for just once a month and do it properly" - and Morten never drinks. "I can taste it," he explains, "but I hate any kind of drugs because they dim your brain and your emotions as well. I can't tell you how much I hate it - it takes away your ability to live and take life in." Only Mags, acknowledged as the group's most "rock 'n' roll" member, is rather more enthusiastic - "I just love that feeling when your brain is slowing down and you've had too much to drink," he says jokingly.



3.00pm TV-am Interview

L After they've disappeared for a long lunch with their manager - to "discuss things in private" - it's TV-am's turn to interview the band in their "London base" - a posh hotel suite. Mags does most of the talking - about overnight success - ("I took us fifteen years to have overnight success"), fashion ("I only like denim anyway") and fame. "We've lived for 23 years without people running down the street after us so we don't take it seriously," he explains.

Then, like the professionals they are these days, the three of them have to do lots of "nodding" shots where they're filmed nodding as if listening to someone. This gives the TV people bits of film to edit in the final programme where they didn't have the camera on the right person.



3.30pm Smash Hits Interview

L Next it's *Smash Hits*' turn to talk to them, or at least try to, as we all sit on the bed chatting in between instructions from the camera crew. Eventually the TV crew leave and A-ha really get going. Morten sulks a bit when Mags calls him "swotty" for enjoying the company of orchids ("he doesn't understand," murmurs Morten) then sulks even more when Pål starts saying that "90% of the records I hear I hate" (he won't say which ones, though). "They get really irritated with me," sighs Morten, "but I just don't think like that." They all get a bit annoyed at the suggestion that the last band who've enjoyed a comparable rise to fame were Kajagoogoo and things didn't turn out too rosy for them. "There's no resemblance at all," huffs Morten, a little offended.

"They were a little too based on Duran Duran," says Mags, by which he means they concentrated too much on what A-ha call "the teen market". A-ha want to be successful in that market ("it's fun to have kids screaming at your concerts") but they want to be taken seriously as well. Even though, as Pål said earlier, "what's wrong with the teen market? When I was 15 I was probably more passionate about music than I am now."

Still, Morten reckons that A-ha's ambition is to "get back the excitement that The Beatles had" and they all say they're not the slightest bit interested in the glamour of being pop stars.

"We threw all the glamour out," says Pål proudly. "We don't want that sort of stuff."

"It's so stupid," says Mags. "It doesn't interest me. We've seen it all but we don't want to get involved. We come from economically stable backgrounds so it's not a big thing for us to be able to drive expensive cars."

"I mean," says Pål, "there's too many bands saying 'oh we don't want to be like Duran Duran' who are basically just the same but...".
"... but we aren't," says Mags confidently. "We don't like posing. We're different."

We shall see...

Dear Black Type

I wasn't surprised, of course, that you published my deeply moving "Love poem to Kate Bush" (Oh Kate, Kate, Kate, Kate! It's LOVE I feel for you, not hate, hate, hate!) I'm sure some magazines would gladly have paid me £100 for it. Nor was I surprised when John Walters decided it was worthy of a larger audience and aired it on his Janice Long spot. I was quite appalled, however, that a) he read it so badly if you're going to distinguish your pop slot with exquisite poetry. Mr Walters got Laurence Olivier or someone from the BBC drama department in to read it for you and do it JUSTICE b) he didn't read out the last three lines of my poem!! He inartistically and callously lopped them off the end! Philistine!! (If he was a theatre director he'd probably muck about with Shakespeare.) c) he had the unmitigated gall to hint that he didn't think my poem was very good!!!

So I picked up my pen and wrote this savage little ditty

John Walters is a boring BBC producer and a rancorpoop
He's scoffed far too much meat and cakes and soup

And now, as a consequence, he's suffering from severe stomach drop

Hah
Tetry Roberts

Not a very nice way to start the "New" Year, was it? Ah, well, a host's awa ya wee timmering cowrie moosie, as Ian "Joheesee" Cranna would say (Put - Jense - I - C) - this is no time to stand on ceremony, what with one's head a-thrumming away like a dentist's axe-stick thanks to a surfeit of ye olde sherry trifles for Hogmanay or whatever they call it. (What on EARTH are you babbering about? Ed.) Poetry, pal, poetry!! I'll give you bleeding poetry!!!!!!

Ode To Nescaif

You get to touch Dame Una's lips
As from her coffee cup she sips
By Rik. The People's Poet

Short but flawless! Ah, what bliss 'twas to be alive in that winter of our Lord, 1986. Co, feeling right peculiar today, viewers, that I am. . .



Hets from the pages of a Sunday newspaper, is a artist's impression of a conversation overheard somewhere in Austria Scene a rehabilitation home for a so-called "top rock combo" The trouble is they keep letting the members out under the false impression that singing "Live Is Loud" to unsuspecting foreigners beyond the Austrian border is the ideal therapy

Yet Another U2 Fan, Schaeberg The Netherlands

LETTERS

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

Dear Black Type And Other Wondrous Followers

As I leafed through my jolly exciting book *The World Of Physics As Seen By J A Wagonborough*, my eyes suddenly fell upon a divine picture of "William Bragg in person" ("Oooh", I thought to myself. "First he teaches physics, then he makes important contributions to experimental knowledge of X-ray crystallography then he invents world-shattering crucial formulae like $n \lambda = 2d \sin \theta$ fact fans!)" and then ("Dashed silence professor!" then "then he writes pathetic songs like "Between The Wars" Oh, cmon, Sir Wilburm I'm-a-div-and-I-stand-for-ver-icids-in-ver-dole-que" Bragg take yer wyy off and go back to Australia, why doncher?

Loads of love, sweetie
Someone Who Can't Wait To Read All The Replies From Outraged B Bragg Fans (Sugger) BFP048



William and Lawrence Bragg, 1862-1942, 1890-1971. England (Spice 84)

Father and son made their most important contribution to experimental knowledge in the field of X-ray crystallography.
William was a professor of mathematics and physics in Australia before returning to England in 1909. He won first to Leeds, then at NUI in London.

Dear Ken MacDougall (Letters, 20th November)

If you think that "Mr lo Be Lived could have done a lot more for Live Aid had he insured his boat and given over the insurance money" how about you selling your selection of Fat Boogie records? Not that you'd get much for them but it would help Ollie. Carfordshire

Dear Mr Type,

Have you and your correspondents no feelings at all? You just don't seem to realise that it could frothen the living daylight's

out of a poor defenceless Chuckie McNugget like myself (I'm the one on the left) when you so mercilessly rabbit on about how delicious and/or disgusting we taste

For your penance BT, may I suggest a £10 record token? Probably my last request (smiff) Miss G McNugget And Friend, (actually, I've forgotten who he is) Bulham and Toorng



You certainly may suggest a £10 record token - it's yours - and well worth every yumlicious bite too!!

Dear Black Type,

A couple of weeks ago, my brother bought a music paper that had a list of the best 100 albums of all time in it. Then the other day, he bought another music paper which had another list of the best 100 albums of all time. But the two lists were completely different and I am now confused. What are the 100 best albums of all time?
Richard Matheson. Oldham

Simplicity itself. The 100 best albums - or "LPs" as we in the "biz" call 'em - of all perpetuity are. . .

- 1) "Bohemian Rhapsody And 11 Other Great Chartbusters of 79" - Larry Lyphoon And The Koppikats.
 - 2) "The Best of Andrew Lloyd Webber - Ovation" - Various Artists.
 - 3) "The Kenny Rogers Story" - Kenny Rogers.
 - 4) "Mr Bad Guy" - Freddie Mercury.
 - 5) "Let's Have A Right Old Knees Up Dahn At The Old Bull And Bush Why Don't We?" - The Velvet Underground with Marvin Gaye.
 - 6) "The Best of Lionel Richie" - The Clash.
 - 7) "Forever Changes" - Shaky & Bonnie with the Welsh Mountain Chorus.
 - 8 - 99) "Portrait Of A Legend: Gartry Lux Vols 1 - 93" - The Dream Academy with Marvin Gaye and Richard Stigoe at the piano.
 - 100) "Surprisingly Cilla" - Dexys Midnight Runners with Richard Clayderman and Marvin Gaye and Roland Orzabal and a kangaroo.
- So there we have it!

Dear Black Type,

I have noticed several references in *Smash Hits* over the past few weeks to "toffs" - as in "you're a toff Sir William" (Billy Idol) and "you're a soft skopper" (Simon Le Bon) Fair enough - but what exactly is a "toff" P. Clark Beckenhams



What is a toff? This is a toff! (As in Chris "Toff" Heath.)

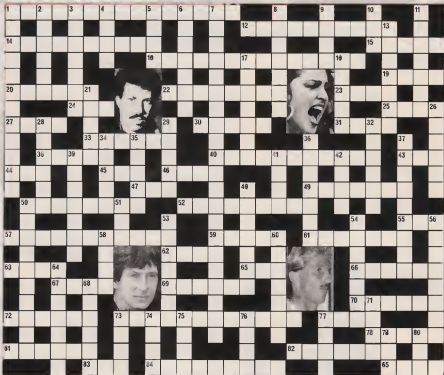
Dear Mr B Type Eqg

Must we really throw this filth at our pop gods? (to quote the famous last words of the PMRC, the "Hollywood Wives") To what am I referring? Is it the latest tune from France? Cyndi Lauper? No, pop chums, I'm afraid it is something rather closer to our hearts: Our liver. Haw, only joking. It is, in fact, the falling standards of Britain's brightest radio sianon and to one incident in particular I was (wincing) to Janice Long when I occurred the check of my life. I actually heard her indulging in what's known in the 'biz' as 'rumpy pumpy' over the airwaves. After she played the classic "smoother" "Rock Me Baby" by the queen of '80s disco, George McCrae she clearly stated the song reminded her of "Lovebirds, necking and smoozing" Corkey o'rocky! Whatever next??

As any self-respecting musicologist could tell you rumpy (pumpy syndrome is by no means a recent development. The condition is rather frankly referred to in several recent "waxers" though Starship's "We Built This City", for example, includes the lines "Yorke today surrumer listen to the radio/ gurne that rumpy pumpy over the airwaves yeah babe sock it to me!" Shocking! Perhaps even worse are these lines in the latest Queen "scorchet" "One Way Or Another" "One man one goal just one rumpy pumpy over the airwaves/prettie gurne game fried chicken / "Pretty spooky huh, pop packers? Other cutpits include the Smiths' Bronks Beat, Half Man Half Biscuit, Russ Abbot and the unsung hero of the Live Aid trust, Paddy O Cassidy the golfer's son!! And what with George Michael singing about being "Your handbag around the world", it seems the world of rawk 'n' roll is facing a crisis!!!!. Parac stations!!!
Ritchie's Destiny London

Fair enough. So join us on the *Love Boat* next time when Gopher does something unspeakable with a beach ball and a lady's hat box, (and I get my other page back!!!)

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Les Belfrage's heir provided a top TV cap show (orig. 4, 6, 5)
 12 Virgin _____, with which Richard Branson's Atlantic Blue Riband hopes were sunk
 14 Drop a paper to find those '85 duellists (map)
 15 and 35 down They performed the title song to '85 James Bond movie (5, 5)
 16 It became the biggest-ever sailing record in the UK by a female artist (3, 5, 2, 4)
 19 In November she delivered the promise of an sitcom
 20 *Phyllis* who requested you move closer
 22 and 18 down *Travis-K's* television age (only 6, 2, 5)
 23 Eurythmical Stewart
 24 Do — (disturb) (Bananarossa)
 25 DJ Jaws
 27 Billy Bragg was between them
 30 That bodacious Maria
 31 It was an apt label to provide 'N-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n Not Out
 See 68 down
 38 Band that led a single life
 Make Dr Don H Doyle leader of *Blade* (orig. 5, 6)
 43 He pondered "If I Was"
 44 Lesley from the middle of *Cashmere*
 45 and 46 "We Close — — —" was a hit for 27 down (3, 4)
 47 *Five Star* suggested they fall down

- 48 Jan from just down *Friends*
 50 Actor who married 8 down (4, 4)
 52 See photoclue D (3, 6)
 55 Lynch who became landlady at the Rover's Return in '85
 Her "Wood On Wood" struck lucky once more (4, 7)
 59 For a while it became *Wham!* land
 And talking of *Wham!*, *Andrew Ridgeley* had this (4, 3)
 61 — — — And *The Sunshines*
 63 Make less of a 'nana out of newscaster Ford (10, 6)
 65 *Frankie's* 'nbits amid Clint Eastwood
 66 — — — Of *The Night* (DeBarge)
 72 The Diana poked *Wentley* for a series of concerts
 69 '85 history-makers (3, 3)
 71 'Dowds — — — The Moon' for 34 across
 72 *Calmed* of the year — and we don't mean Sanders!
 73 *Don Wentley's* lads for warmer days (4, 2, 4)
 77 Here's a Scottish singer, just for hogmanay
 78 A seasonal bird, rather like a *See See* '76 — — — *Bravo's* hot hit (2, 4)
 82 and 11 down See photoclue C (7, 7)
 83 Band initially like the Royal Albert Hall?
 84 *Animotee's* location?
 85 Simple — just like the two Phil's lover

DOWN

- 1 Our seasonal greeting to you all (5, 3, 4)
 2 and 28 See photoclue A
 3 This Duranite offshoot was of the power variety
 4 *Talking Heads'* led exactly nowhere
 5 and 73 down — — — *Devil Called Love* (Alison Moyet) (4, 3)
 6 It was without doubt the music event of the year (4, 3)
 7 And this was won (unbelievably) by a Norwegian group (10, 4, 7)
 8 See photoclue B
 9 See 68 down
 10 Coloured into a hit-making box
 11 See 62 across
 13 *Harty* or Grant?
 17 *Kinky MacColl* considered a new one
 See 22 across
 21 *TTT* originally made an art of it
 23 The band had plenty of direction (2, 4)
 26 See 2 down
 29 Part of a band that has more of a 42 cornichon
 32 Land that USA was for
 34 and 58 They were just the sort needed to top up the charts (5, 4)
 35 See 15 across
 36 Screen actor *Bustle*
 37 He brought a party "Atmosphere" to Top Of The Pops (4, 5)
 38 They made a comeback on their Zarzap

- 39H
 41 *The Limit* asked you to say it
 42 *Robby Dix's* was a big one on TV
 48 Just *Green's* kind of *Scruff*
 50 And yet another sailing failure of the year (5, 2, 3)
 51 Order, Edmon, year?
 53 Holy fies that made it on film and record? (2, 5)
 54 *Shawley* who provided the charts with a 'Good Heart'
 56 Tour-cancelling *Twins*
 58 See 34 down
 68 and 8 down What we didn't need, according to *Beyond* (Theodorakis Tina Turner) (7, 4)
 64 And here's that other Duranite offshoot
 68 and 34 across These girls introduced you to *Frankie* (5, 6)
 71 Medical mob containing 43 across
 76 *Kate* who went running up that hill
 74 *Ono*, wife of the fondly remembered *John Lennon*
 75 'Live Is Life' they proclaimed
 76 Not *Ms Wilson* at the head of *Marillion* sunb?
 79 Not the Black art but a *Shirley Conan* novel that provided a TV sequel during the year
 79 That — — — *Devil Called Love* (Alison Moyet)
 80 — — — *Called A Heart* (Depeche Mode)



MY HOME TOWN BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD
AND RUNNING WITH A DIKE IN MY HAND
IN TO THE BUS STOP
TO PICK UP A PAPER FOR MY OLD MAN
I'D SIT ON HIS LAP IN THAT BIG OLD BUNK
AND STEER AS WE DROVE THROUGH TOWN
HE'S TROUBLE MY HAIR AND SAY SON
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND
THIS IS YOUR HOMETOWN
THIS IS YOUR HOMETOWN
THIS IS YOUR HOMETOWN
THIS IS YOUR HOMETOWN

IN '65 TENSION WAS RUNNING HIGH
AT MY HIGH SCHOOL
THERE WAS A LOT OF FIGHTS
BETWEEN THE BLACK AND THE WHITE
THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO
TWO CARS AT A LIGHT ON A SATURDAY NIGHT
IN THE BACK SEAT THERE WAS A GUN
WORDS WERE PASSED IN A SHOTGUN BLAST
TROUBLED THINGS HAD COME
TO MY HOMETOWN
MY HOMETOWN
MY HOMETOWN
MY HOMETOWN

HOW MANY STREETS
WHITENASHED WINDOWS
AND VACANT APARTS
SEEMS LIKE THERE Ain't NOBODY
WANTS ALONG DOWN HERE TO MOVE
THAT'S THE OLD FASHION TEXTILE MILL
ACROSS THE WILDLAND TRACKS
EDUCATION SAID THESE JOBS ARE GONNA GO
AND THEY AIN'T COMING BACK
TO YOUR HOMETOWN
YOUR HOMETOWN
YOUR HOMETOWN
YOUR HOMETOWN

LAMBS NIGHT WE HAD KITTIE MY LAMB DID NOT
TALKING ABOUT BETTER
PACKING UP OUR BAGS
MAYBE REMEMBER SOMETHING
I'M 35 WE HAD A BOY OF OUR OWN NOW
LAST NIGHT I SAT HIM UP BEHIND THE WHEEL
AND SAID SON TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND
THIS IS YOUR HOMETOWN

WORDS AND MUSIC BY SPRINGSTEEN
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION
JONAS MUSIC N.B. LTD
ON CAS RECORDS

FREE IN THE NEXT ISSUE GIANT DOUBLE SIDED POSTER FEATURING A-HA AND MADONNA



PLUS KING U2 STEVIE WONDER THE KIDS AID PRIZE RAFFLE

AND MILLIONS OF SONGWORDS, PIN-UPS, INTERVIEWS, COMPETITIONS, GET SMART, MUTTERINGS, THE CROSSWORD, R.S.V.P., NIGHTSOUT, BITZ, LETTERS, THE CONTENTS PAGE, STAR TEASER ANSWERS, THE PAGE NUMBERS, ADVERTS, TWO STAPLES, A... (That's enough plusses thank you - Ed.)

ON SALE JANUARY 15

1985 I N P I

Photo: Steve Glick



JAN Morley the kitten unplugged his hearing aid in a desperate attempt to escape the whining tones of "top" pop singer **Morrissey** on The Smiths' "Meat Is Murder" LP — vegetarianism and Animals' Lib became the first major *Smash Hits* "controversy debate" of the year.

Photo: Peter Johnson



FEB **Alison Moyet** had a bit of a mishap with one of her chickens. "Sometimes I feel like wringing their necks when I've been all nicely singing to them and they bite me," she told us. "They can be bastards like that." How like life, . . .

Photo: Andy Cohen



JAN The most thunderous thighs in rock — a veritable colossus in Spandex — stop forward please Ms **Chaka Khan**. Chaka's single "I Feel For You" was number one for ages at the beginning of the year and then she seemed to sort of just disappear, like, How fiddle is Fate, eh?!

Photo: Steve An



FEB **John Taylor** in New York — and why not? He owns the place. But as J.T., paced the city streets, wending his way toward the Power Station studios, everyone else pondered the age-old musical question: "Have Duran Duran split up or NOT??"

Photo: Barry Proctor



FEB By February, **Nik Kershaw** had made so much money that he decided to retire into hippie millionaire seclusion by a swimming pool — or is it a still from his "Wide Boy" video? It's so hard to tell, isn't it? Pop music — pah! And 1985 had only just begun.

C T U R E S



MAR Howard Jones' mum dropped in for a spot of tea. "When Howard was born, the first thing the nurse said was 'Oh my God, he's just like a little peach' ... shall I pour, luvvie?"

MAR Prince cowered between his bully boy chums at the B.P.L. Awards – what a weedy little cry-baby, eh, pop toffs?



APR For services beyond the call of duty – a tea towel!! **George** and **Andrew** sniggered their way across the Chinese sub-continent.



APR In a last ditch effort to regain his nationwide popularity, **Boy George** went for the "rag doll" look. (Actually, it is rag doll – one of the year's least successful toy launches.)

APR In a last ditch effort to regain its nationwide popularity, **Smash Hits** adopted a fruit bat in London Zoo. **Hail Fluffy!**

Continued



Photo: Neil Baker

MAY "Root! I'm a really frightening dolly that looks like **Sting** in that film *Dune*. His kids throw the around the room sometimes, just for a brovvalaff! Fancy that!" Sting, himself, proved less forthcoming in his "exclusive" *Smash Hits* interview.



JUN "I tink ver **Cult** are a great bunch of lads. Ver music does my 'lead in, like," commented one contented "punter" after The Cult concert at London's Hammersmith Palais.



Photo: Steve Rother

JUN Q. Who was this and what was he doing? Was it: a) Mr Perkins (the most boring man in the world) washing his wife's smalls b) Bobby Davro doing an awful impersonation of the Bold Automatic man on "TV's" Copycats or c) **Howard Jones** in a vid? . . . That's right! And 1985 was only half way through. . .



Photo: John Stanger

JUN "Hello. I'm a piece of wax that has come out of a bee and has somehow found itself moulded into a dummy of **Michael Jackson's** head to go on display in the London Virgin Megastore. Isn't nature wonderful eh, pop chums?"



Photo: Steve Rother

JUN Look out! This person wants to "ramrod witcha till half past dawn". It is, of course, ver boss, ver prisoner of rock n'roll, mister humility . . . **Bruce Springsteen** who played lots of very long concerts around the world last year and earned himself \$52 million in the process. Worra "tycoon"!??"



JUL "Hello! We're **Paul Weller's** legs – not very nice to look at, are we?"

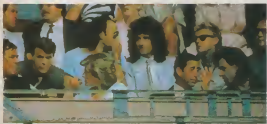


JUL "Come with me, oh sinner! Let me lay my healing hand upon thy soul!" **Bono** got all "euphoric" at Live Aid.



JUL "Look at me everybody! I've just spent about one million pounds to stand around for two days covered in mud in a horrid field watching Working Week and The Untouchables. Yep, that's right - it's the **Glastonbury CND 'Festival'** and everyone's having a really great time!"

JUL Two minds, two talents and two tons of Polytila. Mick 'n' Dave makin' up for that vid.



JUL Why did **David Bowie** throw a paper dart at Princess Di? Why did **Bob Geldof** listen in whilst Prince Charles chewed his finger? And why was Bobby Davro behind them wearing a stupid Charles II pop wig? Because it was "one day that shook the world." YES! It was...

AUG "Puff puff... puff puff... cough cough... hm, cigarettes aren't very good for you, are they?" Madonna got up to all sorts of things with her chum Rosanna Arquet in *Desperately Seeking Susan* - indubitably the film of the year.

AUG **Paul 'Ardcastle'** 'ere. 'Alo, 'ow's yer farver? Eh, remember wat *Smash Hits*? "It's A Swizz Quiz, wot vey 'ad in ver Autumn... Well I was anni! Yeah, straight up! I was ver peezer done up like Freddie Mercury from wat band Queen! Fooled ya, eh?"



Photo: Peter Marshall

AUG "Boo!" growled bizarre old **Robert "Bobby" Smith** of The Cure, "I'd love to hang George Michael," he snarled in the first of his many ker-azzy interviewettes of the season. Bimsey!



AUG **Boy George** went cross-eyed on our cover, wore a silly hat and did very little else in 1985.



AUG Miss Boy George, on the other hand, was much more revealing (winky wink hawhaw/hawknawormmean et autre noises tres disgusting (she's French)).



Photo: Ray Aron

SEP "Well, here we are back stage again, warmin' up fer a rilly "tight set!" backin' **Paul Young** on his tour of the good ole U.S. of A." Ho ho! What a funny joke. Actually, these are just four of the 10 trillion fluffy gonks chucked on stage for Mr. P. Young during his American "jaunt". Pheweeeee, rock'n'roll" eh?



Photo: David Cochrane

SEP In 1985 **Sir Terence Wogan** appeared on television at least 78 times every day. He talked to lots of dead famous people and had lots of dead famous pop stars—none of whom were actually "dead", if you catch our drift—miming to their latest records in the middle bit of his show



Photo: Mike

SEP "Salty" **Simon** tried on several Acme life jackets in '85. Ho ho! And just think, if he'd actually drowned, we wouldn't have been able to make all those rib-ticking Drum disaster jokes!



SEP "Hello! Remember me? **Stephen Duffy** here, just having a bit of a lie down while this sweet girlie bites my ear. Well, '85 wasn't exactly momentous for me, was it? All that really happened was that I changed the middle of my name from "Tin Tin" to "A.J.", but no-one seemed to notice anyway. Boo hoo! Mummy, I want to go home!"



Photo: Ronan

OCT Poor old **Prince** became the target for a billion comic "funsters" in '85. This was just one of them. Yus, would you credit it? — this was actually supposed to be funny.



Photo: Andrew Fynn

OCT Whatever did happen to **Frankie Goes To Hollywood**? Good question.



DEC "Haw haw haw! I pinch girls' bums! I get drunk and biff people and fall over! I drive posh cars and smash them all up! Haw haw haw! I'm very famous and you're not! I'm rude! I'm cheeky! Yes, I'm **Andrew Ridgeley** and no mistake! Haw haw haw! See yer in '87?"



Photo: Phil Cox

OCT Junior singing "sensations" of 1985 with a load of junky playthings. What were **Five Star** doing here? Would they still be here in twelve months? So many questions, so little time. . .



OCT "The Very Odd Couple" biased the cover of *Smash Hits*. And how right it was, eh, pop toffs? (Especially once the story ended up in *The Sun* with all the good bits taken out.)



Photo: L.T.

NOV Fashion Aid: **Sir Frederick Mercury** got married for charity to posh actress Lynn Seymour. Hurrah! Eugh! Ho hum! (Delete according to taste.)



Photo: Paul Baker

NOV These collected gries claimed they looked like **Madonna** — but actually most of them looked more like Paul King in a grumpy mood with a wig on. That was pop music 1985-style for ya. . .



DEC "Hello readers! **Nick** and **Si** here! Well, what a year! A year we looked into the eye sockets of the big black D — **Death** — and came out the other side. A year we performed in front of eight squillion people for charity. A year we made up a very silly name for an "off-shoot" project **Arcadia**. A year that had, undoubtedly, 365 days. Phew! Roll on '86!"

1985 IN P I C T U R E S

NIGHTS OUT

PAUL YOUNG L O N D O N



None of the posters advertising tonight's concert even mentioned the fact that Blancmange were the support band. What's worse, through another terrible administrative blunder, the tickets stated that the doors opened at 8 pm but Blancmange had to begin their "set" at 7.30. Rum dos for a band as fine as them to be belting out a brilliant version of "Blind Vision" to a load of empty seats, and it's hardly fair on the ticket holders who had no idea what they were missing.

And the arena's still filling as Paul Young sneaks onto the dark stage. "Singing in the rain..." he warbles and the crowd jump up. "I want to hear those hands," he shouts as he swivets and kicks his way through "Love Of The Common People." "I want to see those hands" — squillion wattage lights reveal not only 20,000 hands bashing together, but a bunch of rather nasty gestapo-like characters who keep shoving jiggling bodies from the aisles and back into their rows. A quick pop with his brilliant backing vocalists on a platform bit above the stage arouses a bit of concern, but he lands on his feet. "Anybody feeling hungry for love?" shouts a swasty Paul, and runs through "Love Will Tear Us Apart," "Ble The Hand," "My Girl," ending up sounding positively asphyxiated on "Wherever I Lay My Hat." Much howling, wailing and screaming from the audience as he sings "I'm the type of man that's al-weeays on the rooam..." which is pretty accurate considering he's just spent nine months "on the road." Skip skip and he's out of sight. The backing singers on the upper tier of the stage punch the air and he's back — charging around and coaxing the audience to go "push push, hey hey," "Fellas," he says. "I've got a problem. I need a doctor or a psychiatrist. I've got something... sexual." A large proportion of the audience pass out and Alison Moyet trots on stage for a "forceful" rendition of "That's The Way Love Is."

After teasing the Arena with a very hot and bothered version of "Sex," Paul and his laddish band of muso-minstrels hold hands, bow like actors on a curtain call and sadly depart leaving rather dazed little clusters of people poring over their 84 official tour guides and crooning "Every Time You Go Away" amongst the plastic cups.

Sorrel Dawner

"I've got a problem," says Paul. "I need a doctor or a psychiatrist. I've got something sexual..."

THE STYLE COUNCIL L O N D O N

It's nine o'clock on a miserable Sunday night at Wembley Arena (not the most pleasant of places at the best of times), the auditorium is jam-packed (bar bar) with Paul Weller lookalikes and the adjoining bars and hamburger stalls are beginning to look like a crowd scene from *Quadrophensia*. A small figure appears on stage and asks us to welcome "probably the best pop group in the world — The Style Council" and there's a huge roar of approval from the audience. In run about nine members of The Style Council to join the four brass players already on stage and it's straight into "The Lodgers." But there's a tiny snag here. Paul Weller's microphone hasn't been switched on so, apart from D.C. Lee's bit, we're treated to the instrumental version. Ah, well, it is the first night.

A wonky microphone, an eight piece string section in dinner suits and an auditorium full of Paul Weller lookalikes...

On the second song "You're The Best Thing," a black curtain at the side of the stage is raised to reveal an eight piece string section in dinner suits (swanky, eh?) and for the next hour and a half we're given almost all the songs from the "Cafe Bleu" and "Our Favourite Shop" LPs.

But despite excellent versions of "Shout To The Top" and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" — and D.C. Lee's wonderful "See The Day" — the evening never really gets off the ground: the sound quality is pretty atrocious throughout and no-one seems to be trying all that hard.

To make matters worse, the following night's show featured a much longer set with better sound quality, D.C. Lee singing for a whole half hour and a guest appearance by Junior on "Soul Deep." Fine if you were there, but for those of us who turned out on Sunday — wot a ser-wizzle!!

Simon Bradshaw



SMASH HITS
D.C. LEZ

