Britain's brightest pop-music weekly!

RECORD & Radio MIRROR

SWEET'S BRIAN CONNOLLY: 'We'd never cheat our fans'

BRYAN FERRY: 'There are thousands of song's left for me to destroy!'

PLUS: OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN AND ELVIS PRESLEY!

THE ONLY PAPER WITH A TOP FIFTY CHART EVERY WEEK

A BILLBOARD PUBLICATION JANUARY 26, 1974
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**Chart Chatter**

POOR old Roy Smeck for he's been toppping other charts but don't seem as if he's going to be number one in the main important Top 50. More have made it and spent breeches down their necks at two. Is Teenage Rampage their last "Wish It Was Christmas"? We press officer of Polydor, said he dug the disc but was slightly surprised to find it broke the ban. Air-play has been in the plenty and it's one of those discs which needed plenty of exposure. Roy has done a good job as well.

Hello Xmas is over and Slade will be moving down fast. Drupi is back in the 20 but only slow progress for Diana. Ronnie Lane puts GOSH in the map and he's at 20. He had almost given up hope it seems. Good old Harold Melvis with some Philis as The Love I Lost moves further upwards. Billy Paul moves three and our other retro of Chart Parade, The Stylin' are making fine tracks, at 19!

She's done it. The more you hear the disc the more it gets into you — that's Lou and the Bowie influenced The Man With the Violin. The World Press office of Polydor, said he dug the disc but was slightly surprised to find it broke the ban. Air-play has been in the plenty and it's one of those discs which needed plenty of exposure. Roy has done a good job as well.

Now we await the new bolan disc for Truck On is moving down fast but now it's there we can perhaps expect fast, fast moves upward for Prelude and their lovely Sifter The Garden Spade and in the disc has been hanging round for some time and nearly ever made their very interesting first albums.

**US Soul Chart**

(1) (Livin' For You — Al Green (Hi)
(2) (Let Your Hair Down — Temptations (Motown)
(3) (I've Got To Use My Imagination — Gladys Knight & The Pips (Buddah)
(4) (Put Your Hands Together — O'Jays (Philady)
(5) (When I Come Down To — Isley Brothers (T-Neck)
(6) (Trying To Hold On To My Woman — Paul & Paula (Stax)
(7) (Jungle Boogie — Kool & The Gang (De-Lite)
(8) (I Miss You — Dells (Cadet)
(9) (Until You Come Back To Me — Aretha Franklin (Atlantic)
(10) (Soulful Moments (Stag) — From Billboards Specialist Soul survey)

**Breakers**

BREAKERS from Marvin Gaye to Tom Jones are the 'Star Breakers' and then comes the list with no sales reflections. Steve Miller Miller is also there with The Joker. Now it must climb into the 30 with SIFTER and Stomped Out Of Mind has been breaking for many weeks. George is still trying to make it with Black Cat Woman. C'mon Dexter make the 50 with your catchy, God Bless and can Melanie make it with the old hit song, Will You Love Me Tomorrow. The Beeech seem to be sticking with her for she's there once more on the playlist. Love Theme is a Top 50 disc, so the Beech Cliff....

**Come Get To This** — Marvin Gaye (Tamla Motown TMG 822) STICK IT OUT IN MY MIND — Chillites (Brunswick BR7)
**REMEMBER** — Des O'Connor (Pye 45444)
**GOLDEN DAYS** — The Troggs (Philips 2100)
**BACKFIELD IN MOTION** — Mel & Tim ( Concord Co 2100)
**BABY WE CAN'T GO WRONG** — Cilla Black (EMI 2107)
**BLACK CAT WOMAN** — Georgie (EMI 2109)
**GOOD BLES** — Dexter Redding (Caprice K 1300)
**JERUSALEM** — Emerson Lake & Palmer (Mambo K 1300)
**LOVE THEME** — Love Unlimited Orchestra (Pye 7N 2635)
**OUR HOUSE IS ROCKIN'** — Marmalade (EMI 2107)
**QUICK FAST IN A HURRY** — New York City (Polydor 2100)
**REMEMBER** — Bay City Rollers (Bell 1338)
**SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN** — Bachelors (Pye 2100)
**THE JOKER** — Steve Miller Band (Capitol CL 1974)
**WISH I'd Had more money (Atlantic K 10083)
**WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW** — Melanie (Neighbourhood NH1)

[1974] RECORD & radio MIRROR, JANUARY 26, 1974
people

JUDGE DREAD Popular Demaed, this week. They've flipped over Malty and are now being played as the 'A' side. That's the way they're ending over Judge Dread singing 'Rockaway'. It's a wickedly effective record.

NEW SEEKERS: We've learned by a new method news about the next single. No titles, but Lyn is again featured on vocals. Now if you're in the money you can take this as true. In at London's Talk Of The Town theatre-restaurant from March 24 - March 31 and then it's up, up and away for the New Seekers are commencing a six-week concert tour. Just watch the States pages for those dates.

JENNY OSMOND: Hello, her's back vocalising with force after almost a year. Around the first week in February is the release schedule for I'm Gonna Knock On Your Door. The song was written for Jimmy and was then released for Malcolm Jones and is first a hit for the Sixties for Little Eddie Hodges.

SLADE: Within easy sight of one million sales are Slade, Christmas hit 'Everybody Come To The Show' and early March it comes their next album, 'Slade In The City'. At the moment the group are in the States and return here on February 7. and then they are putting down tracks for another album.

NEW YORK CITY: Getting lots of air-play with their catchy Quick Fast In A Hurry have a new album I Only Play Piano released in a very short time. The group are here now and the February so keep a look out for their talents.

LENA ZAVARONE: Opportunity Knocks has sold for a blonde-haired twice-winner with a male singer for a female writing The & Ma. He's Making Eyes At Jeff Albin. And I'm going to be the first The & Chart. Lena Zavaroni. Lena Zavaroni is quite self-sufficient.

BROOKLYN: Remember how you tuned in on the columns about an exciting recording session down in Barmes with this talented group? Then we filled in more details and details of the involved. But now the new album in the making. We're out on RCA listening. Title is The Tails.

KNEW IT?" says our jazz and American singles reviewer that 'they should have made a million more hit one week with their fantastic single. Yes, MUP have been around, but they are the FIRST number one hit. It took them seven years before they broke big In '73 and now their second to make a chest of a mighty wave. Les Gray, lead singer, Dave Mount, drummer; Rob Lead, lead guitarist and Ray Bates, bass, so guitar and flute are a fine bunch. James Hamilton says: 'I love their stage act' and birthday.

WELL, HERE'S the answer to the birthday. January 29, RCA recording artist Tony Blackburn, at 24, you know, he's the DJ as well. So send your cards to RCA, Radio One, MBC, London W1A 1AA. A few years back Tony didn't think his million cards and everyone was surprised. This must be the year he let in the how many go so many'. So cheer him up this year! By the way Miss H. Clifford tells us Jan 24 was Neil Diamond's birthday. As far as we know has a birthday first week in February but next time there's someone who has had a number one hit in the last month or so. So read this para next week for the news, of course you know!
in brief

THE EFFECT of the energy crisis on the music industry will be discussed at length on BBC's Money Programme this Friday (5.40). In the studio will be Nat Joseph of Transatlantic Records, John Reid, of Warner Music, David Davie of United Artists. The programme will look at the dramatic drop in the number of albums being pressed and probe the shortage of essential raw materials such as vinyl and cardboard, as well as the red ink capacity in capacity caused by the three-day week.

GREENSLADE will be special guests at Osibisa's Rainbow concert this Friday. The band sets on a European tour next month following dates at Leeds (Feb 13 and 14), Aylesbury (Feb 15) and Reading (Feb 17).

THE INCREDIBLE String Band from Britain before releasing their second album Hard Rope and Shaken Twine, on February 22. Currently in Europe, the band aims to play various concerts, relax their masses of 40 date tour last Autumn. Dates: Central Hall, Cheltenham (Feb 14), Chichester Festival Theatre (Feb 14), Brunel University, Berkshire (Feb 15, 16), Rochdale Charter Hall (Feb 16), Manchester Town Hall (Feb 17), Keble University (Feb 18), Drury Lane Theatre (Feb 23).

QUEEN set off for Australia this week to complete their next album and single due for release in March. The band are due to make their appearances at a three day open air festival in Melbourne.

EILLS have broken up and according to Steve Eilis and rhythm guitarist Alan Schatz, have started writing material for a new album. The duo have also made a deal with Mountaineer's Records and will be recording their debut album in a few months under a different name.

AMERICAN gospelers, The Staple Singers, make their first British concert debut this Friday at London's Festival Theatre. Their latest single, Respect Yourself, was released at the end of last week.

FOLK singer, Ralph McTell, who has been busy putting 60 tracks for his first album, Take It Easy, his first single ever for Britain this year.

The six-week tour taking in 20 venues, see the band at the Civic Hall on Saturday. His other gigs are Civic Hall, New York on January 27, Royal Albert Hall, London on January 28, Bristol (Feb 1), Middlesbrough, The Orpheum, Royal, Newcastle (Feb 3), Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury (Feb 4), gs Arena, Cheltenham (Feb 5), Apollo, Chester (Feb 6), Queen Elizabeth Hall, Edinburgh (Feb 7), Guildhall, Newcastle (Feb 8), York (Feb 10), Liverpool, Mathew Street, Liverpool (Feb 11), De Montfort Hall, Leicester (Feb 12), Cannabis Clubs (Feb 13), Cliffs Pavilion, Southend (Feb 14), Royal Court Theatre, London (Feb 15), City Hall, Hull (Feb 19), Town Hall, Leeds (Feb 22), Central Hall, Chatham (Feb 23, New Theatre, Cardiff (Feb 24), Town Hall, Oxford (Feb 25), Festival Hall, Ipswich (Feb 26), City Hall, St Albans (Mar 1), Civic Hall, Milton Keynes (Mar 2), Civic Hall, Gateshead (Mar 3).
ARGENT are to headline a massive 19-venue UK concert tour starting at Birmingham Town Hall on January 25 to coincide with the release of their new album on the CBS label, "Northern Lights".

Argent will be supported by Status Quo and the John Varni Group throughout the tour as they commence their fifth American tour on March 17. The tour dates are:

**Birmingham Town Hall (Jan 25)***

Malvern Winter Gardens (Feb 1); Plymouth Guildhall (Feb 11); Liverpool University (March 1); Manchester Royal Exchange (March 3); West End University (March 7); Bristol Old Vic (March 9); Glasgow Apollo (March 14); Manchester Free Trade Hall (March 15); Hub University (March 18); Hanley Victoria Hall (March 21); Norwich University of East Anglia (March 23); Royal (March 24); St Albans City Hall (March 25); Swansea Town Hall (March 29); Stafford Top Of The World (March 30); Hastings Pier (March 31).

**Heats on**

CANNED HEAT arrive in Britain on February 17 for their first major tour with a new line-up. The band, featuring members of the late-great group, will perform at venues throughout the country.

Budding superstar Steve Harley (above) will introduce the band on their first UK tour. The group's debut album, "Whiter Shade of Pale" (March 9), is a critical and commercial success.

**Biba's party**

Biba's, London's ultra-cool club, is to continue its programme of events with a mixed media night presented by Cockney Rebel on January 23. The show coincides with the release of Rebel's debut single, "Seattle", on the long-awaited album, "Blue Oleander".

Cockney Rebel play on BBC's "In Concert" programme this Saturday and appear on "The Old Grey Whistle Test" on February 10.

**Frupe tour**

FRUPE, the Irish group from Belfast, start a month long tour of Britain on February 9. Their set is a mix of traditional Irish music and original compositions.

**Medicine Head**

Neil Sedaka and The Hollies are now enjoying their latest US tour with a new line-up featuring members of the iconic band. They are, respectively, Skip and Slade, A Little Lovin' and The Air That I Breathe.

**Van back**

CARAVAN return from their highly successful European tour with a new line-up and a new album, "The Road To Canterbury" (March 9). Their performance at the Rainbow Theatre on February 17 was described as "a musical tour de force".

**BBA**

ALTHOUGH he has long been recognized as one of the guitar greats, it was not until now that BBA has been given the recognition he deserves. His latest album, "New World Order" (March 9), is a critical and commercial success.

The first single, "Love Is A Strange Bedfellow", has received wide acclaim and is likely to be a hit. The second single, "The Last Waltz" (March 16), is expected to be equally popular.

**Rick Wakeman**

RICK WAKEMAN, keyboardist with The Moody Blues, has announced plans for a solo tour of Britain later this year. The tour will feature his new album, "The Masque of the Red Death" (March 9), as well as material from his previous solo albums, "The Myths of King Arthur" and "The Seven Seas".

**Kiki follow up**

KIKI DEE will release a new single this week, "You've Got A Friend in Me". The song is likely to be a hit and is expected to chart highly.

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And SWEET GOLDEN EARRING in full colour plus the latest news and reviews
A NUMBER of years ago it would have been considered impractical to present a group like GREENSLADE on stage. The market wasn't ready for theatrics but with the 70's came a change of attitude.

The audiences today adore the strong visual effects, the complex presentations and the showbiz costumes. The make-up and hi-sexual images are all very much a part of today's music scene.

One of the foremost exponents of the theatrical side must be GENESIS who have become visual experts. Can the make-up and star trip side become too big to handle, bigger even than the music? It's one of the criticisms YES have had to put up with recently, has their music become of secondary importance to the audience?

As founder member Dave Greenslade studies the theatrics side of his band's act closely, Greenslade are moving towards a more visual direction. It started quietly on the first album and listen to the band's latest effort, Bedside Manners Are Extra and one can quite easily conjure up some dramatic visual picture to tide along with the music.

"We haven't all the same strengths of bands like Genesis in the past," says Dave, "but we've still done quite a lot of work and entertain so the music has spoken for itself.

"It is important how you look on stage and because we don't have three long-haired guitarists jumping about we have to put a little more thought into it."

"There are several designs in the band at the moment to make the theatre side of the stage more presentable and entertaining to the audience and we've just bought some new lights which the roadies are working on.

Dave emphasized that the use of lights in the Greenslade act was not a gimmick but a musical cue. "It assists the audience and when there's a switch in the music from one side to another it's great to have it pin-pointed."

Greenslade have the ball at their feet at the moment. Their new album is selling amazingly well and the band have a solid basis formed by almost eight months of solid work and ideas in all directions are beginning to generate from the other members, Dave Lawson, Tony Reeves and Andrew McCallum.

"I think we were extremely lucky in the beginning when Tony and I formed the band," adds Dave, "I got Tony off his arse and back on the road again. We looked around for people and Tony came up with Andrew and Dave Lawson and we found the right combination that first time round.

"Dave is grateful that the right formation was found the first time as initial changes obviously mean drawbacks. Greenslade rehearsed for two months and recorded their first album without ever having played to a live audience."

"We last went straight into the studio without any reference to a stage performance," explains Dave, "and it was very much a clinical sound.

"We've become raw at the edges now and we've got to know each other a lot better, I think it reflects on our latest album. Dave Lawson's an excellent lyric writer, he did all the lyrics and we shared the musical writing which is good cause he's been writing songs as opposed to pieces of music for many years which is a great asset to the band."

"There's plenty of room for individually within the band according to Dave, "We all chat about a particular piece and we can pull it apart, reshape it and change it around a lot."

For such a fine album, I was surprised to hear that Bedside Manners Are Extra was recorded and mixed in 14 days.

"The pieces were written and completed before the band went into the studio, but the Greenslade leader agreed that it was something of an achievement..."

"I can tell you that the musical construction took a little longer than 14 days I assure you," adds Dave grinning. So what can we expect from Greenslade in 1974?

We can expect more fine albums for a start and possibly the music might get a little milder which is one thing I believe the band are lacking at the moment."

"We'll be off to Germany, France, Holland and Spain in the new year and then possibly America, then of course there's another album."

Dave wasn't too happy with the production on Bedside Manners Are Extra because the band is something the band are working on. We might even hear a Greenslade single out in the future.

"We've been asked to release them before and we've nothing against it providing the piece of material is absolutely suitable."

My impressions were that Greenslade are carefully treading in the right direction. Dave is a shrewd leader and he isn't going to grab success until he feels Greenslade are ready for it. Sounds like a good year for them anyway!

John Beattie

Making a Point

RIGHT NOW the Pointer Sisters, four black chicks from America are virtually unknown in this country but were big news on the West Coast of America recently. When they arrived in London last week for an appearance on the show, Minty, they were greeted with a huge ovation and a large crowd. The Pointer Sisters are quite a phenomenon.

They are described as a phenomena and in little more than six months have got tucked in their belts a brilliant album and two singles. They've appeared on every major television programme and have chalked up a fair amount of mileage touring.

Now it looks like Europe's turn to see the Pointer Sisters - Bonnie, Anita, Ruth and June. The Pointer Sisters have appeared on the West Oakland Church of God in San Francisco and are now internationally singing gospel.

Gospel was good training and preparation for this album which contains many of the songs they performed in the States. Anita explained: "We have admired the Andrews Sisters for a long time."

The Andrews Sisters have been around a long time and have toured extensively, so we admire all the Andrews Sisters."

The big thing that the Pointer Sisters learnt was the skill of harmonising since their time in the States. They've been singing together for years and have a great understanding of how to get the best of each other. Anita said: "The Pointer Sisters are a phenomenon over here in the States."

"Once we got away from home we started singing rock and roll and folk music," Anita explained in between sipping a glass of water.

Bonnie and June were still at high school when they formed the group. "We were just kids," recalled Bonnie, "but we were just kids and we didn't know what we were doing, and we've decided to join her sisters.

Although they were only singing at small clubs and occasionally in parties, Anita was led up to a letter of recommendation by the Pointer Sisters and we've never look back since.

"I think there was a lot of times when I really felt like that in the back of my mind. But we just never got so happy, we just never just as happy as we've never been, the success we've never had."

Bonnie and June are still in love with their own band and have a lot of people asking to hear them. "We never have a high of anything," said Bonnie, "and Anita has it with singing and an air of triumph.

"We were really poor kids living in the ghetto, but now we have our own home although it's not a dream home, but they were in the doldrums that the three sisters had a stroke of luck."

At the urging of their first official manager they got what few belongings they've had together and headed for Houston in search of fame and fortune. But this didn't last long and they moved on to California where again they found themselves broke, so they went to see producer Dave Rubinson in San Francisco.

Rubinson did better than that, he gave the sisters a record deal. One of the girls arranged an audition for backup singers. They went to see producer Tex Bishop Group, Cold Blood, Taj Mahal and Dave Mason and the Pointer Sisters were signed to Mason that they first came to this country.

Then look June they recorded their first single and were joined by sister Ruth, the only married member of the group. But this didn't last long and they moved on to San Francisco. My father has retired and is not quite right as he used to be. He's still strict as far as I'm concerned. He's constantly on our case to come to church and get saved.

We were really poor kids living in the ghetto, but now we have our own home although it's not a dream home, but they were in the doldrums and the three sisters had a stroke of luck."

Back home they're being described as a phenomenon and in little more than six months have got tucked in their belts a brilliant album and two singles. They've appeared on every major television programme and have chalked up a fair amount of mileage touring.
BRYAN FERRY'S room is very bare. There's his grand piano, an electric version of same, an expensive looking tape arrangement and the record and book collection which houses everything from Lou Reed to Andy Williams and from high art to high camp.

Roxy Music was conceived as the ultimate expression of decadence, matching meaning to mannerisms that would do justice to a Mahavishnu as well as a McLuhan. So it's no surprise to find Bryan Ferry living in vogue.

The decor of the room, the style of the situation and Ferry's own attire - blue terylene trousers, cream shirt, blue and white tie with a huge knot and even a white V-necked cricket sweater - all serve to illustrate Ferry's faith in the style he has propagated.

But with the hair not so neatly quiffed and the spotlight off, the Roxyman at home comes on somewhere between charming and quaint.

He's always been in the pop industry. He had a childhood like anyone else and then art school. And it was here that his attraction to the visual arts, to subjects as well as their hearts, began to formulate themselves into the ideas that gave birth to Roxy.

"It took a long while," says Bryan reliving those early struggles. "It took a whole year to write the songs for the first album and it took six months to put the band together but it was a success - that first album did what it set out to do."

"The people who heard the first album, you know, the oohs and the aahs and the wimping down."

And it was the pastiche of classics, comedy and fine music that attracted Roxy their first audience, the intelligentsia.

The Beeb's underground contact, John Peel, fell for them and gave them instant exposure on his show and of course there were the singles.

"Yes, the more singles you make the more your audience gets and the singles market is getting younger and younger..."

And gradually, Roxy's appeal gets more youthful. Bryan's happy about that. He loves to hear a Roxy record in a disco though he's the first to admit that Roxy as a whole are not good disco material.

The best disco record is probably Hard Rain's..."

Ah yes! Hard Rain's Gonna Fall, former Dylan classic, now a Bryan Ferry anthem too. And one which met with a dismal set of crits as did the album it was culled from. These Foolish Things.

Did the bitchiness that followed in its wake screw Bryan?

"Up to a point it did but I was more concerned with what my characters thought, people whose opinions I respect. But the simple fact that it was controversial was a good thing. At least I got a very positive reaction to it from everyone.

"It was just something I wanted to do. I've wanted a Dylan song for the repertoire and this one sounded right. His version was a poem with a guitar backing. But there are a lot of images in that song that I wanted to visualise musically..."

And I thought I'd sound, good as a rock number.

Like everyone else Bryan would like to know what the Zimmerman himself thought of it and also like everyone else he still waits to find out.

"It wasn't even released in the States. But that's because of the strange situation we're in there. Warners dropped us after the first two albums didn't sell over there and we're not with anyone else yet. The offers are there, it's a question of picking the right one."

The question should be resolved by March for Roxy are Statesbound again and Stranded, the new album, will be released to coincide with the tour.

And with this next States tour, Roxy are hopeful of eliminating a problem that's been with them since they started reproducing their sound.

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But there's no doubt Bryan Ferry remembers that strange End fellow."

"There might be some truth in that. Maybe subconsciously that was the reason. I don't know. I just wanted to sing someone else's songs and through Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder are my favourite musicians I feel more, shall we say, in tune, with people like Gershwin and Cole Porter. They were real craftsmen. I try to use a wide vocabulary never repeat myself except when it's justified."

"That's one of the things troubling the music scene today. The idea of songwriting is abominable. The only songs with real craftsmanship are those designed specifically, as pop singles, you know the one I mean and I'll just say about them the better."

Bryan does admire the song skills of Leo Sayer, however.

"Our first gigs were in support to Bowie. And those gave us our base. Now on this tour we took to the support and the same thing seems to have happened for him."

And for the future? Well there's that Roxy tour to the States in March and Bryan is now pleasantly through the Caribbean when he gets back though..."

"It seems a pity not to do another solo. There are thousands of other songs I'd like to have a crack at destroying."

And the accompanying smile is genuine..."
On the box

DAVE LEE TRAVIS (left) is the Beeb jock most likely to be affected by the arrival of Luxembourg’s Paul Burnett who joins Radio One at the end of March.

Burnett, with the station for six years, is strongly tipped to take over DJ’s Sunday spot. This would lead to other slots being given to the hairy monster.

More programme changes are likely from the Beeb when they transfer to the Spring Gardens rooms at 2003.

Paul Burnett was taken back as the immediate man he announced his retirement and his place has been taken temporarily by Luxembourg programme manager Duncan Johnson — an ex-Beeb man. Radio One’s Sunday regulars are not looking for a replacement and have listened to hundreds of tapes.

Bob Stewart has taken over Paul Burnett’s Top Twenty show which now moves back to traditional Sunday slot. Roc Prom Roll Past moves to Saturday and a new show, Jim’s Top 20 begins on Wednesday.

On February 7 Tony Prince will be running a phone-in quiz from 10 pm to 11 pm. Also Kid Jensen will be doing some top thirty shows.

The response to Tony Prince’s Lennon Appeal has been quite magnificent and plans are afoot to present the petition to the Queen.

Steve is 'Dilly boss'

Steve is 'Dilly boss'

FICACULARO RADIO in the first independent station in the world has appointed former Radio One disc-jockey Steve Murphy as its Head of Musci. Steve will handle relationships with record companies and will be given a lot more leeways, will play an important role in shaping the station’s music policy and will commission live recordings from Manchester studios.

One local man who has spent time away from the music scene is former interviewer Mike Mink. He spent some time as a programme director on Radio Two but has now returned to the Manchester studio. His recent show on BBC Radio Manchester featured the new single by Tony Prince.

On Sunday’s My Top 12 guest is Welsh boyo Tom Jones, then late of the Teddy Bears. This will be his last show with the Teddy Bears and he has now left the band.

The station’s run by Liverpool’s David and he will be the most successful station in the country.

Radio Aquarius has had a disastrous run with the Post Office recently (ended last week) and needs help. It has run for several months with our 611 number if you think you can help in any way.

This column is compiled by the Free Radio Information Service. If you need information you can contact Alan Reece at 24/7 FM Ltd, 77-79 Whitechapel, London E1, or Jeffrey Collins at 361-778 9148. They will be pleased to help at 6.96 in London and 7.06 in Manchester but not at any other time.

Also remember you can get free stickers by helping the old and helping the kids by getting the free stickers from the Free Radio Information Service.
Capital hits the million

SO CAPITAL RADIO has one million listeners a day and a big enough share of the Radios One and Two audience to send shivers through Auntie Beeb. Who can blame them for celebrating with champagne? Certainly not me.

The figures, released the day after BRM went to press last week, show that Britain's most popular music commercial station has quickly established a strong share of the listening public. Indeed the Marpilin 'random route' survey only accounted for listeners in London while letters have come from as far away as Dundee and telephone calls from Holland!

Not surprisingly, Capital management Director Mr John Whitney, declared himself: 'Strangely confident,' though not exuberant 'since we are obviously in for a squeeze.'

But by any standard, Capital have done well and look set fair to reach their target of break even on the advertising, though Mr Whitney expects the company to break even next month, now that the commercials are being aired.

Unlike London Broadcasting, its (financially) poor cousin, Capital seems to be reaping in the advertising, and though Mr Whitney expects the company to break even next month, now that the commercials are being aired.

Undoubtedly a major contribution to the achievement of one million listeners has been the Kenny and Cash show, featuring Kenny Everett and Dave Cash each morning between 6.30 and 9.00 a.m.

Of the 15 per cent stake they have in London's 6.6 million adult listening audience, Capital claim half listen to the Kenny and Cash show and reckon that the combined 40 per cent of Radio One's breakfast-time audience in London. At the other end of the day Nicky Horsen is packing them in with his nightly rock show. Your listeners can choose whether to 'go on' with the Capital team or 'go off' with Cash and Everett.

Radio will come into its own for a little more flexibility,' he said, 'I think there will be a large switch from television. We can take bookings at such short notice.'

Not only that, firms suddenly feel willing to bite the bullet on advertising as they become more confident of the Caradice's influence over the commercial market and the success story.

Londoners who attend the capital conference centre rather morbidly on questions about London's traffic, are doing to Mr Whitney or asking for bookings.

'There has been a lot of gloom over the problems that RGT people tend to think commercial radio is one service that is having a hard time,' he said. 'It is not true. If you think of these figures you can help LBC.' He was quite convinced that the Independent Broadcasting Authority was not going to allow LBC to collapse.

The Capital hierarchy present was also at pains to point out that Capital was in no way obliged to use LBC's news service. It was stressed that Capital had its own well-equipped news department which provided a 'different style,' the 'entertainment' style. This puts strong emphasis on the capital and not on the station's own reporters who can be seen charging around London on their motor-cycles.

Generally it was felt that LBC had not been of the standard hoped for but that RGT's management it could be. News boss, Ron John, felt LBC was not anything like a radio version of ITN. 'The fact that we are able to mount a good news service is fine,' though he admitted that once the LBC network grew through the opening of more commercial stations, Capital would find it harder to compete with on-the-spot reports outside London.

Gentle Jim

JIMMY SAVILE, a self confessed Capitalist, started his life in the coal pits. 'I was a miner for seven and half years, and in that time you absorb some of the feelings of the other people, and you form your own outlook on life. Still, whatever I thought, I had to consider the situation, even if it was just a dip-stick.' Only this week a full-scale survey by N.O.P. Market Research Ltd., was being undertaken and will no doubt result in further proof that commercial radio in Britain is already here to stay.

Peter Hanney

Dave Johns
LULU'S NEW SINGLE

THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD
WATCH THAT MAN

Produced and arranged by DAVID BOWIE and MICK RONSON for MAINMAN
A Product of CHELSEA RECORD CORPORATION

CAT No. 2001490
SO this impertinent journalist, writing from an Irish hide-out, suggested that Elvis Presley should quit. Suggested that only occasionally did "that enormous talent peep through the plastic." Said, not to mince words: "Is he to go down in history as one of the greatest musical greats of this century - or one of the last great manipulated stars who, for lack of self-respect, jumped on every last lucrative bandwagon and drooped on and on after he should have done the decent thing and retire with grace and integrity?"

I turned the whole business over to YOU ... the fans who again voted Elvis Presley "King" in our pop poll. Not one of you agree that Elvis should quit. All of you agree that the journalist we quoted should (a) drop dead; (b) plunge into a bottomless pit; or (c) find another job.

Sandra Taylor, of Doncaster: "Should Elvis retire? Should he hell. You talk of a steady decline - sure he had some dark days in the mid-sixties, but forget to mention that he re-emerged as a rock phenomenon, with success after success, audiences crammed to overflowing. I'm not filthy rich, nor sex-starved, but many of my fellow Elvis fans have visited Las Vegas and they're not paying out life savings just to see a man who merely swivels his hips and grunts.

"I'm fourteen. Proud to be an Elvis fan. And man, you're just laughable."

A whole batch of Elvis fans writing from "Form ZA, A School in London" point out that Elvis still has the greatest number of fan-clubs and the biggest number of fans. "Nobody in our class is an Osmo or Cassidy fan (no offence meant) ... because after listening to a couple of Elvis albums, they became switched on the Mr. EA. Presley."

Las Vegas?

P. L. Perry, from Walsall, Staffs, says that Elvis is accepted by all age groups. "And why knock Elvis for his Las Vegas cabaret shows? The top stars appear there and are not criticised for it. And listen to the comparatively recent steam roller Blues to prove Elvis still gives great performances."

And Graham Edwards, very happily helping me for the article, says: "I mean, it's all right - says that some singers he

Heart talk from the fans

Peter Jones and YOU in defence of the King

Pure trash

Margaret Conroy, of Bow, in East London, says that the trouble with Elvis is that "he's stuck with this bad boy rocker image, so when he records a beautiful ballad like Until It's Time, the critics slam it as pure trash. . . . It's pure bittersweet. Critics just can't account for the fact that Elvis has been around for eighteen years. I doubt if Cassidy or Osmond will be around in 1992, for example."

She named Keith Campbel, in from Cardiff. "Since Presley's backlash in 1967, it's amazing how he's unraveled the most pathetic, cynical, finger-pushing critics of all time."

"And how can you say that Elvis was too heavily linked with rock for the older set to take to him as a straight singer in the '60s? How does he come to the conclusion that those that desert the older set of people are now his middle aged audience of today? As for it's Now Or Never, it's in the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest popseller ever, over 20 million copies, made in the sixties when Elvis was singing as a straight singer. Standing on his head he's still something.

Mrs. C. (Leeds) agrees to being 45 years old. From I'm Not Alone, by (gosh), Essex, lady. And not sex,
Are you ready for a teenage rampage?

The organ player
can sing too
MARKS PLACE

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TEENAGERS. Penpals anywhere, send a s.a.e. for free details. - Teenage Club, P.O. Box 71, Hove, Sussex.

PENFRIENDS AVAILABLE, home and abroad. S.A.E. to Pen Society (N38), Cheltenham, Glos.

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THE NOVELTY of watching Golden Earring drummer Cesar Zuiderwik leap over his kit in one spectacular movement must have been the biggest attraction the band had on their initial UK arrival last year. It was never planned in the act until Cesar decided to do it himself spontaneously and it will no doubt disappear from the show as suddenly. Earring have discovered that gimmick is no longer needed in order to attract the audiences in this country. Their last tour in particular and the success of Radar Love have shown the English fans that there is a lot more to Holland than tulips and windmills.

What's all this Ear?

John Beattie
having hun fun
with Earring

Rinus was understandably wary about committing himself on foreign material because although the band were adaptable, it was decided to head in one direction on Moontan.

"It might be completely different next time," he comments, "because there are many different ways of presenting rock 'n' roll although I believe our way is most original."

"I'm sure that if we bring out another single it will be a completely different thing from Radar Love. Its concept to do because we don't bring out singles unless we're really behind it. Some years back we went into the commercial thing to bring out singles and we really hated it so we're not going to be pushed into anything quickly."

Earring's set in Munich brought out a remarkable Golden Earring the fact that they were unable to use their Quad equipment. It looks almost uncanny to watch the sheer professionalism of this Dutch outfit led by Barry Hay who does so much to create the musical vibes in the music.

From the ultra suggestive Candy's Going Bad to the down-tempo, Vanilla Queen, the set, rocking with rich romantic undertones and melodic touches was highly successful.

The audience seemed rather faciliated by it all and sat quietly until the last songs of Radar Love flowed out. It's obvious that individual quality plays an important part and each member senses the right time without any prompting.

Earring have truly adopted an international outlook and it's like being a big year for them...no matter where they venture.

George Kooymans – Europe's Jerry Garcia
for Christie.

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AMS 7096

Reviews

Peter Jones

James Hamilton

LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA: Love's Theme

BOB DYLAN: A Fool Such As I; Lily Of The West (CBS 2006). The

BARRY WHITE: The Magic of Love

3 CC: The Worst Band In The World

BRENDA & THE TABULATIONS: Walk On In, I'm In Love (Epic EPC 1967). As

Pick of the week

Pick of the week

20 CC: The Worst Band In The World

LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA: Love's Theme

BARRY WHITE: The Magic of Love

BRENDA & THE TABULATIONS: Walk On In, I'm In Love (Epic EPC 1967). As
I and row, feeling together, must think Rod and his men should go back and make a proper live album because, frankly, this effort is diabolical. It was recorded during the Faces' last tour of the States and the only two tracks which have face are old favourites and Angel With Malice. It seems a shame that this had to be Tetsu's debut album with the band because his bass is way above the standard of the others. The first side starts with a moody version of It's All Over Now and the pattern doesn't change. Cut Across Shorty although Ronnie Wood manages to get himself together a bit more in Too Bad Every Picture Tells A Story. Flip the album and dilapidations sit in with the exception of some stirring vocals on I'd Rather Go Blind. Rod should keep away from the Molotov stuff though. It's a woeful version of I Wish It Would Rain. The misery comes itself in Birthday Boy/Awesome Grace and the general mood finishes with the Lennon song, Jealous Guy. It's a pity that Wood and Tetsu found it so hard to find the beat because things shouldn't have been so bad otherwise. Basically I'm a Faces fan but what can you say about bad eggs made into a bad album well what do you think? J.B.

Dennis Linde (Elektra 42474) Session man, solo circuit, rounds done before and it'll be done again... but rarely given with the perception and hard driving that bestows oomph and respect in the Linde's Imperial man, a real icon, was one of the most recorded female lead guitarists of the 1970s. Dennis Linde's unique feeling for his music. It's a distinctive sound, electric guitar music without the ethereal folds of Floyd, Pink and Yes. This album is going to be a big one. "Van Dike Parks level. "Van Dike who? - Ed. See what I mean, sure you do!" Before you block a copy. R.G.
2nd British Country Music Festival

Sponsored by Record & Radio Mirror and organised in association with the B.C.M.A.

Wembley April 13-14 1974

Are you an artist or a group involved in country music? If so, here is an opportunity to win some fabulous prizes by competing in the 1974 Country Music Festival.

Listed below are the categories, together with the trophies and prizes.

**Prizes**

- **Best modern group** £75
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- **Best duo** £40 plus a Jumbo 12 string guitar.
- **Best old time blue grass group** £75

**Entry Rules**

Interested parties should select the categories they wish to enter, and complete the form with all relevant details.

Please tick type of act: Solo □ Duo □ Group* □

What type of country music: □ I enclose photograph □

Name □ Address □

*Please state number of personnel.

Post to: Mike Storey 127 Cumbrian Way Lupset Park, Wakefield Yorkshire WF2 8LA

The judges will consider all entries on their merit and select 25 acts which will compete at the festival. Latest closing date for entries is March 18th 1974. The final selections and acknowledgements will be advised to all entrants immediately after the closing date.

Guitar prizes kindly donated by CBS/ARBITER LTD.
One to Mull over

MARTIN MULL, the American singing-comedian who has been let loose on London recently, is having to live down in fact that many critics compare him, and his work, to Randy Newman.

He told me: "I'm writing a song now called Randy, They're Comparing Me To You. Reets the pants off being compared to Neil Diamond.

About three years ago, I was starting to write and starting to sing, and I was doing my regular stuff, singing at the same tone of voice I am now, some kind of phrasing, same kind of music and ideas and somebody brought over a Randy Newman record.

"I thought about this business of Zen poetry, where everybody in the world at a previous noon... writes down what's in their mind, and that many of them are gonna link up an... "Cosmic rays? I don't know that mind, and it's sure uncanny!"

Maybe you just happened to think that Beatle John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote some of the best popular music. Nice words, hummable tunes, instantly commercial - great consistency, flowing style, brilliant ideas.

Well, some people take it more seriously than just saying: "Great music, fab... get on with it. Listen to the song Baby's In Black. Now listen again, and see if you agree that "the flat seventh approach to the sub-dominant chord is ineffably doleful."

Take the beautiful If I Fell.

Surely you're with me when I say that the unexpected mediant triad on the word 'heart' in the lyrics is wonderfully tender, rather than assertive.

Hear again I Am The Walrus - does it not give aural flesh to a psychological fact - repletion means regrowth, which cannot be partial." As a matter of fact, I didn't say any of these things. I'm more the 'great music, fab gear' type. They are the words of Professor Wilfrid Mellers in his book Twilight Of The Gods (The Beatles In Retrospect), published by Faber and Faber. Price £2.95.

I'd just like to be around when John Lennon reads some of these words, for fetched analyses of how he and Paul came to write songs.

Oh dear! Baby's in sub-dominant

Sterile at the knees

What kind of fuel...

Our editorial director, Mike Hennessey, has been casting his jaundiced eye (only one) ahead into 1974 and making some perceptive and impetuous predictions about pop.

He says: "Susan George will create a scare at London Airport when she boards Boeing 707 to greet boyfriend and shouts 'Hi Jack', and if the power situation goes on long enough they will release What Kind of Fuel Am I? by Nina King Coal."

And encouraged by the tremendous success of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. will make an comeback record called Old Eye is Black. I also see a situation where Hey Joe Good for Elkie Brooks.

Hey Joe

GOOD for Elkie Brooks. This singer has been voted top girl singer in the international poll of Music magazine in Sweden. Other winners include.

Male singer, David Bowie; band, Paul McCartney; keyboards, Keith John; drummer, Ringo Starr; other instrument, Ian Anderson (flute); band, Deep Purple.

A band of merry Scottish folk together, celebrating. Celebrating Lulu's excellent new single 'I Think That I'm In Love'... What a hit it has been!... and the release of Harry Nilsson. He's not Scottish, as a matter of fact, but I didn't want to spoil the caption.

Poem I dig - here's a plug

Now these two girls, Rosie Maylan and Anita Marshall, drop me a poem and say that their local Leicester group Museum are: a cross between Sutts and Zazareth and as good as Sweet.

The poem? Well, Rosie and Anita burst into verse thus: There's a new group at our dance-hall, Museum is their name. We just know that one day, they'll climb the stairs to fame. They specialise in all that's to be found in rock and pop. All they need is publicity to help them to the top.

"All in all there's four of them, two Graham, Steve and Ken. Although books aren't important, they're four dicky men. Their stage act is quite something, always something new. We'll say no more for now. We'll leave the rest to you.

Hey, jog-a-tog, I've given 'em a plug.

Os cash

Another record for the fantastic Omdums. A Las Vegas theatre agreed to pay them four million dollars, which is near enough to that they have agreed to appear at the Tropicana for eight weeks a year for the next four years.

Awards for David

R... Luxemburg's Tony O. Prince made a trip to the States to present four awards to David Cassidy... including a couple from our sister publication Rock Music Week. Tony met up with Dave during a break in filming the fourth and final film of the Partridge Family TV shows. After that, it's off to the David Cassidy World Tour.
DAVID CASSIDY, whose last concert appearances were in May and June 1977 in Britain, where he set new attendance records for his shows at Wembley over one week, is shown here on Phase 1 of the David Cassidy Tour 74. He will again be joined by his side band, Melba, when he returns to Australia, the Orient, and Europe in May and June, and may also appear in New Zealand. The tour will also take him to Australia, the Orient, and Europe in May and June, and he will also appear in New Zealand.

ALICE Cooper received an unexpected surprise recently, a concert in Tokyo, where he was billed as the "rock star of Japan." Cooper, who was in Tokyo last spring, was tận his head with an egg during a sound check, and the rest of the show was cancelled. However, Cooper trooped into his strike until his Dillard Babies, the band that had replaced the rest of his tour, was stopped because the band was out of gas. The show was rescheduled, and Cooper made a live appearance.

LOUIE MORENO and DOC HOPKINS will appear on Gordon's next album, Speaking of world tours, the MOODY BLUES are currently winding up their tour in Japan, after playing in an unprecedented 110 concerts. The tour began last September 1st in Copenhagen, Denmark. Following the tour, the Moodies will enter an American studio to record their 6th album.

TONY ORLANDO and DONOFRIO won the Record of the Year award for 1974 with "Candid River," which was released last year. The album has sold over 1 million copies.

ALICE Cooper received an unexpected surprise recently, a concert in Tokyo, where he was billed as the "rock star of Japan." Cooper, who was in Tokyo last spring, was taken by surprise when the Dillard Babies, the band that had replaced the rest of his tour, was stopped because the band was out of gas. The show was rescheduled, and Cooper made a live appearance.

The new record stores have started selling DAVID BOWIE albums under the"Male Vocalist" category. News of this comes on the eve of Bowie being named in fashion designer Blackwell's list of "Ten Most Dressed Men Of The Year." Bowie's image has been compared to that of James Dean, and probably to start the trend, DAVID BOWIE FISHER, one of the owners of the record stores, has named the album "Do You Remember You're Having a Good Time?" The NEW YORK DOLLS have also announced the headliners at the Academy of Music's first annual Valentines Day concert.

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The far-out Martin Mull -- midget with leukemia???

MARTIN MULL has a thing about midgets. And a thing about learning the blues from his grandfather, who was a real estate salesman from Cleveland. And he has a thing about making all of us seem a little bit more ludicrously absurd than we are already.

Which is why Martin Mull is such an outstanding talent. Via his two Capricorn albums, Martin Mull and Martin Mull and His Fabulous Furniture In Your Living Room, he's building a big worldwide reputation.

That grandfather of his was so white and middleclass people called him Blind Lemon Pledge. But Martin Mull still says he learned the blues from him.

Martin Mull brings comedy to rock -- he's a commentator on the rock-music scene. It's difficult to sum up his art. But take that obsession with midgets, which involves more general kinds of comment.

One song has him marrying a midget ... she makes him feel ten feet tall, and when people ask "how do you ball," he says love is the answer and "we answer them all," and then "we go walking hand and ankle" ... and so on.

And he sings about Ventriloquist Love ... which isn't such a groove because whenever I kiss you, your lips don't move.

Crazy, zany stuff. Not so funny when in black-and-white print. But largely surrealistic material in which he sends the whole rock scene, sky-high.

And he came recently to London to send it that bit higher ... You don't even have to wind up Martin Mull to set him in motion. He has his own put down for everyone: "Now take that Karen Carpenter -- it must have taken at least two weeks to learn to sing and play drums at the same time!"

"As for midgets -- they're superior people. They're perfect -- just condensed, like Pet Milk. Except they're not richer. And as for myself, well ... I'm not yet a household name -- that MONTHS away."

And on stage, he'll take the Mickey out of Carly Simon and then say: "I really shouldn't talk this way or Carly will write another one about me" -- a reference to the I'm So Vain song, which was variously attributed to relate to Mick Jagger, Warren Beatty or Kris Kristofferson.

He introduces, from the side wings of stage, himself in a booming virile voice. "Hi, I'm Carly Simon. In my travels, I come across a lot of new talent. I'd like you to welcome one of my favourite new performers -- Mr. Martin Mull."

He chants his "life-lines" -- before you even ask the questions. "Married, two and a half years. Hobo -- place-kicking at football. Pet peevish -- stuck-up girls. My motto: If God had meant for us to play acoustically, he never would have given us amps."

Martin is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and was an artist before turning to music. He wrote songs for Warner Brothers "including a real flop called A Boy Named Johnny Cash."

But largely surrealistic, he does do the tricks.

In the way, to try and keep up with him. You've got to pay attention all the time, or you'll miss the gags.

Still paints, but on smaller-than-usual canvases. So I can do them in my lap while I'm watching television."

Onstage he wears a suit. "Well, weirdness has gotten to the point where a guy comes out dressed like a woman wrapped in tinfoil with a nail around his neck and then hangs himself and kicks people in the audience. So that becomes the norm, and the strangest thing yet will be a guy coming out in stage wearing a suit. I've actually had people go F- aah Out when I come out dressed like their father."

Some of his humour is ... f-aaa-r out. He'll say on stage: "I have a new album out. I don't want you to use this place to sell my record but ... I think you should know that I have leukemia. My whole family has leukemia, as a matter of fact."

"As for the midgets ... "I knew one well -- we nearly grew up together" ... well, Martin's first rock band was billed Mull and His Magic Midget Band. He billed it as all genuine midgets.

"I got us bookings for curiosity value. When we showed up for the gig without any midgets, it was too late to fire us. We had a really good funk band, so once we got to play, we always kept the job."

Peter Jones
Oldsters

IT JUST goes to show that the old-timers in show-business are still going strong; your charts show three entries from Perry Como, also entries from Matt Monro and Max Bygraves. These placings only go to prove that some entertainers are just never too old to get into the charts.

Stephen Warren
175 Hunting Lane, West Ewell, Surrey.

EHT PARDON? What's that you say young man? Hang on while I turn me hearing aid up. Where will it all end I ask myself. Wheelchair-Rock?

Why Bowie?

WHY do people like David Bowie? He produces the biggest load of trash that has ever been. He must have swindled thousands of pounds of the pockets of the British public.

Not none of his songs even sound original, and I for one sincerely hope he packs up this year.

"Wombole," Wimbledon Common, Eton.

AND what you say, dear reader, is he just a carrovead-headed, bisexual lavatory-brush, or is he rock'n'roll saviour for the seventies?

Don't ring us . . .

I AM WRITING in to complain about the biggest load of crap I have ever read — your pop column.

Firstly the "British Male Face" feature. I find this absolutely abysmal. For example, although Elton John is far more talented than Bowie, he is not a British face at all. Olivia Newton John's eyes are even bigger than Bowie's. I don't see how any kind of people voted, but they sure haven't any taste! (This is an understatement.)

The only sensible results were for the British Groups and the British Newcomers, Oh yes, and forgetting, the Disc Jockey, Radio, TV, and all the rest of it. (Apart from Bowie Crush coming tenth in the keyboard section). Denny Rose and Elvish deserve their first place ratings but how Donny Osmond got in at 8th place in the first place, I'll never know.

Calling Donny Osmond a singer was the biggest overuse of the word this year.

David Cassidy deserves his place there more than any of the others — if only for his earnestness to his fans and give them their money's worth. I know I'm not a popper, please that's what you're thinking.

The fact that Donny Osmond, sister Marie, brothers Jay and Wayne and the Osmonds themselves all get all their shoes in, shoves aside the all the little kids have written in for a long time. (Sigh!)

Donny Osmond is a far, far better drummer than Jay Osmond. (I know.)

I MAY point out that David Cassidy can also play the piano even though he is not as talented at it. Donny Osmond's no better at the keyboards so how come he is at 6th place again? By the time I reached the first time I reached the international singles and groups chart. I saw Donny Osmond up and down the chart. I was starting at my "Gin" for the second time, "The Plan" again, please! Although I've heard "The Plan" and it's still there. (Sigh!) If dreams are made of more than political assassinations at the time of the poll (which it obviously wasn't), it would have come at least in the top 30. M. Bonner, J.P. Mayor of the London Borough of Merton, officially opened the doors of the Tennessee Country & Western Centre at 267 Broadway, Wimbledon SW19.

We'll ring you

THANK YOU. Tony Jasper and RRM for the publicity you have been giving Cliff Richard recently. As two of his most ardent fans we are both not doing as well as we should. We agree with Tony in that, as much as we like "Please Mr. Heigh", we feel that he should release stronger material as singles but where are all his faithful fans? He can't lose out now after the world tour either.

By the way, Donny and David fans, Cliff has been a teenage idol for fifteen years and can rock and roll and ballads better than Donny and David . . .

So come on all you Cliff fans, stick up for him and persuade his manager to let him write more of his own music. We ask you. "Please Mr. Heigh" has really got the ball and it's about time the media carried on showing Cliff has. And all you DJ's out there. Please give Cliff more airplay, especially a certain D. J. On Radio 1 who does a certain Breakfast Show! Record and Radio Mirror, we think you're the best pop paper out there. Linda Pollinger & Elaine Ferguson, 89 Riverview Gardens, Barnes, London, SW13, KZ2.

THANKS for the compliment — we think RRM is pretty neat ourselves.

around the country

ALTHOUGH the nation may currently be struck by three day weeks and an energy crisis which is threatening all aspects of entertainment, America takes a look at a few forthcoming events and proves that the situation is not completely gloomy.

The major country tour — and looming in the immediate future — is the welcome reappearance of the all-American visiting George Hamilton IV. George has been pretty busy recently and, besides regular U.S. personal appearances, holds a rare distinction of having three different television series running concurrently in the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

George commences his nationwide, twenty-four day tour of these shores at the Central Hall, Chatham, on February 24th and accompanying him throughout the visit will be Board/RRM Award Winners Young Yank, Pete Sayers, Miki and Griffin and host man Malcolm Anthony, who'll also have his own musical spot in the proceedings.

The rest of the dates are ABC, Peterborough (21); Gaumont, Ipswich (23); London Palladium (31); Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead (28); Odeon, Tuition (3); ABC, Plymouth (28); ABC, Gloucester (March 3); Gaumont, Southampton (13); Theatre Royal, Norwich (3); Odeon, Chelmsford (7); Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (8); Liverpool Empire (9); Theatre Royal, Nottingham (10); Civic Centre, Middlesbrough (11); Winter Gardens, Bournemouth (13); Fairfield Hall, Croydon (14); To be announced (15 & 16): Comedy Theatre (15).

To coincide with the tour RCA will be rush releasing a new (Lawrence Welk) project under the title of the Best Of George Hamilton IV — Vol 2 (LP) at £3.25 (Singles at £1.25). The following are entitled such items as Canadian Pacific, Dirty Old Man, Cannon-Bells and She's A Little Bit Country and Country.

Looking ahead to Easter — and the Sixth International Festival of Country Music, which, as usual, will be held at the Wembley Empire Pool — the Record & Radio Mirror, in association with the British Country Music Association, will once again be sponsoring the British Country Music Festival which will be held during the normal daytime hours prior to the evening concerts.

Last year the Festival gathered highly enthusiastic responses from both artists and public and this year, with the attractive prices offered during the last year, it should prove equally as appealing.

The four categories are the same as last year and feature Modern Groups (with a £15 prize), Soloists (a £75 prize plus £100 string guitar). Duo's (prize - £40 plus two Jumbo 6 string guitars) and Bluegrass and Old-time Groups (prize - £150). The guitars have been kindly donated by CBS Arbiter.

All interested parties who wish to enter the Festival should send full particulars, and a photograph, to Mike Surrey, 177 Cumberland Way, Little Park, Wakefield, Yorks WF1 8LA.

London had a major new country venue launched last week (January 15) when Councillor Mrs V. C. Bonner JP, Mayor of the London Borough of Merton, officially opened the doors of the Tennessee Country & Western Centre at 267 Broadway, Wimbledon SW19.

"Although it will be opened six nights a week," says owner Chris Fords, "at present, due to the power crisis, live entertainment will be featured only on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday evenings. There'll be a cover charge on Sunday and the rest of the week. The centre will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. The centre looks good and is one of the first of its sort to be developed. I'm sure all the artists to be invited to perform will find such items as Canadian Pacific, Dirty Old Man, Cannon-Bells and She's A Little Bit Country and Country."

Tony Byworth

Welcome return for George

Welcoming George Dornan

Tony Byworth