

BELGIUM



The Scabs

- Signed to **PIAS**.
- Publisher: **Les Editions Confidentielles**.
- Management: **Louk/Kessel-Lo**.
- New album: *Jumping The Tracks* released on November 4. It is number 7 in Belgium.

- New single: *Don't You Know* released on October 14.
- Recorded at **Jet Studios/Brussels**.
- Producer: **Werner Pensaert**.
- Marketing: a limited edition 5-track live EP enclosed with the album; a street poster campaign aimed at key cities in

Belgium; and in-store material restricted to 38 retailers.

● Promotion: the album was presented during a Brussels-Antwerp-Brussels train ride, with a short concert being given on the Antwerp station platform. Press coverage was good, with interviews in TV magazine **Humo** and Dutch leading rock magazine **Oor** and TV appearances on private station VTM's "10 Om Te Zien" programme (November 21) and "Luc" talk show (December 3). In addition, they will record an acoustic set to be broadcast at a later date for Dutch pubcaster **VARA** (radio).

● Concert tour: starting January 30, the band will be on an extensive Belgian and Dutch tour.

● European releases: the album is out in the Benelux, GSA, the UK (all three on **PIAS**), France (**Remark**) and Spain (**Nuevos Medios**). In Japan, the album will be out on **Alfa**, and an American release is pending.

Year-end 1991 is signaling heady days for rock programmers across Europe who want their rock heavy, but not metal. Good time rock 'n roll bands seem to spit out great new records by the minute. The Scandinavia rock storm started blowing with the release of the new **Sinners** album *Turn It Up!* on **MNW/PIAS**, followed shortly by Danish **D.A.D.'s** *Riskin' It All on Medley/Warner Music*. The trilogy is completed by Belgium's rock institution,

the **Scabs**.

Jumping The Tracks, their third full-length album for **PIAS**, is a high-class piece of rock. In 15-years-time, the band has logically gone from punk to guitar-driven pop. Lead singer **Guy Swinnen's** voice is relaxed and melodic for a rock singer, without losing its weight or credibility. The riffs of guitarist **Willy Willy**, the Belgian version of **Keith Richards**, are memorable throughout. The band masters writing melodic songs with strong, often witty lyrics which are far above the average jive talk. The track *Robbin' The Liquor Store* is illustrative in both respects. *Nothing On My Radio* gives introspective advice to radio programmers and, judging by the good radio response in their homeland, all stations seem to have dug the message. Says **BRT 2 Oost-Vlaanderen/Gent** producer **Gust de Coster**, "This stuff is just perfect to programme for any radio person with rock roots. This band has grown in the right direction. The rough edges are gone, saved for their razor sharp live performances. All their songs have great hooks and they become catchier with every new album release. What they need is a breakthrough single in the same way as *Losing My Religion* worked for **R.E.M.** At the moment, we play the single on our station, plus the ballad *You Got My Name, You Got My Number*. The stomper *Keep On Running* and the mildly rocking track *Demons* seem to be great future candidates on our playlist."

GERMANY

Bonnie Tyler

- Signed to **Hansa/BMG Ariola**.
- Publisher: **Hanseatic**, for the current single, **Warner Chappell** for most of the other tracks.
- Management: **David Aspden/London**.
- New album: *Bitterblue*, released on November 11; charted in Norway (number 4) and Denmark (number 44).
- Current single: *Bitterblue* released on October 7; at press time, it is at number 3 in Norway and number 11 in Denmark. In the **Coca Cola Eurochart Hot 100 Singles**, it a new entry at number 78.
- New single: *Against The Wind*, to be released on December 16.
- Recorded at **Conway/L.A.** and **A&M Studios/L.A.**, among others.
- Producer: **Howard Houston** for the current single; **Dieter Bohlen** for the new single.

- Marketing: around Christmas, 20-second advertising spots will run on **MTV Europe**; a longer version has been made for broadcast on German TV stations.
- Promo tour: at the end of November, Tyler had already finished some promotional groundwork in Finland, Norway and the UK.
- European releases: the album is out in GSA, Scandinavia, the Benelux and Portugal. The UK, France, Italy, Spain, and Greece will follow at the beginning of next year.

M&M is identifying a new trend: international stars are relaunching their careers on the always loyal German market. **Sailor**, **David Hasselhoff**, **Smokie's** **Chris Norman**, **Suzi Quatro**, **Katrina & The Waves**, **The Cross** and former **Manfred Mann's Earth Band** lead singer **Chris Thompson**—just to men-

tion a few—are now joined by **Bonnie Tyler**, who is signed directly to the **Hansa/BMG Ariola** label. The outcome is the album *Bitterblue* and a single of the same name.

Of all European markets, Norway has proved to be the most receptive. Says Hansa A&R manager **David Brunner**, "In only five days, the album sold 25,000 copies (silver) in Norway. With 38,000 units sold so far, gold (50,000) is within reach. She is regarded as a real superstar there, comparable in status to **Michael Jackson**. Her appearance on the "Casino" programme on national TV on November 21 was watched by 1.3 million viewers, more than a quarter of the population."

Hansa's German promotion plan is aimed at getting her on as many TV shows as possible. One track on the album will be featured as the theme song to popular TV detective series "Tatort" on national broadcaster **ARD** for the December 29 episode. It is the **Dieter**

Bohlen-written and produced song *Against The Wind*. That's quite an honour, knowing that it will be the last time that inspector **Schmanski** is on the show. Hansa expects 20 million people to watch **Tatort**.

Tyler's unique voice has always made her sound somewhat like a female **Rod Stewart**, as proven by such chartbusters of the past as *Total Eclipse Of The Heart* and *It's A Heartache*. Just like Stewart's hit *The Rhythm Of My Heart*, her current single, the title track, is heavily inspired by Scottish folk music.

The album boasts an incredible list of songwriters/producers. Apart from the above mentioned, these are: **Giorgio Moroder**, **Nik Kershaw**, **Harold Faltermeyer** and **Roy Bittan**. Adds Brunner, "We used so many producers in efforts to capture many different moods for many different territories, because we believed in the international crossover potential of Tyler."

DENMARK

Dr. Baker

- Signed to **Coma/Mega**.
- Publisher: **Megasong**.
- Management: **Mega/Copenhagen**.
- New album: *Global Kaos*, to be released in March of 1992.
- New single: *Turn Up The Music*, released on October 14; currently, it is at number 4 in Denmark.
- Recorded at **Teentown/Copenhagen**.
- Producer: **Baker/"Killer"**.
- Marketing: the single was mailed out in

black net stockings, with four different sleeve designs to radio.

- Promotion: The band gave a radio promo tour prior to support the release.
- Concerts: from December 7-9, they headline a short Scandinavian "Coma tour" supported by **Rozalla**, which includes gigs in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo.

With acts like **Titiyo**, **Dr. Alban**, **Cut 'N Move**, Scandinavian dance product is becoming state of the art. Danish band **Dr. Baker** fits the row of hot dance trendsetters from the cold north. Mainstay producer, singer and project leader **Kenneth**

Baker—also founder of the **Coma** label, **Mega's** dance division—represents the company's politics: no masked one-off acts. Instead, real live performers with long-term careers ahead.

Twin sisters **Camilla** and **Charlotte Wisøfeldt**, both singers and dancers, assured them of a strong public image. Vocalist/programmer/keyboardist **Kenn "The Killer" Haunstoft** completes the line-up. For their new single *Turn Up The Music*, colleagues **Wizdom 'N Motion** sent out their rappers **King Al** and **Chris C**. This song marks a major departure from **Dr. Baker's** hardcore techno-sound as witnessed by their past sin-

gles—the 100,000 copies across Europe selling environmental statement *Kaos* and *Reality*—into a more "commercial" and radio friendly tone. The song, reminiscent of **Blackbox's** *Ride On Time*, has airplay being reported from stations from all over Denmark. Says **Mega** international marketing manager **Martin Dodd**, "We've already been working on this act for two years, and have built up a very healthy club following. But radio deserves the credits for breaking this single. **Dr. Baker** has a lot of fans who work for radio stations. Finally, these DJs had the right radio song to materialize their support."

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