



**Magazine**  
**Real Life**

*Virgin Records*

Magazine is a five piece British band lead by a young Mancunian (native of Manchester, twit!) named Howard Devoto.

He is arrogant, reclusive, even slightly paranoid. He also exudes a personal magnetism exceeded only by the likes of Bowie.

To top it all, he sings like he could spit in your face, writes songs that grip you by the throat, fronts a screaming bitch of a band, and has produced a debut platter that has to stand alongside the first Roxy Music album as a milestone in British rock.

Elvis Costello doesn't have the patent on Uneasy Listening. Devoto will have you nervously glancing over your shoulder.

"Shot by Both Sides" already has classic status, with a hookline that sticks like a leech and the band playing with the impact of a knife to the jugular.

This, and one of the album's other strongest numbers, "The Light Pours Out of Me", was co-written with Pete Shelley of the Buzzcocks, with whom Devoto sang for a short time.

Lyricaly, Devoto seems determined to remain an enigma. Although only in his twenties he seems already to have been through

his private hell. He had his scars, but he is not about to bare them.

He acknowledges debts to Roxy Music and Cockney Rebel, but fulfills promises made and not kept by both. At the same time Devoto makes some promises of his own which hold out well for the future. Let's hope he can sustain this initial creative burst.

*Real Life* will not make you smile or dance. It will simply stun you.

**Duncan Campbell**

**Cheap Trick**  
**In Color**

*Epic*

*In Color* is Cheap Trick's second album, released in most other parts of the Western World some time in 1977. The first album is still currently unavailable and there's now a third in existence so we'll keep our fingers crossed. In fact we ought to keep everything crossed that's crossable because this is an extra-good elpee and we need more of the same.

Cheap Trick are one of the finest American bands extant. They carry the banner so courageously waved in the last few years by bands like the brilliant Big Star, Blue Ash and other commercially unsuccessful outfits who put a lot of stock in good writing and vocals,

aggressive and inventive playing, and 100% magnetic hooks. For some reason they just don't play a lot of that stuff on the radio in this merry old decade. But you should buy this record 'cause Cheap Trick have got it all, the complete rock/pop band.

Hints of The Beatles can be detected but they're used to the very best effect, and who better to hint at anyway. And what do they look like? . . . well, there's a couple of yer standard rockstar pin-ups and a couple of nutters. They've got it all covered.

**Terence Hogan**

**Gerry Rafferty**  
**City to City**  
*United Artists*

With this album Gerry Rafferty's name is becoming big enough to send people out scouring bargain bins for his earlier work, and while *City to City* is a considerable distance from the first recordings, elements of his Scottish folk background are still retained in the sound. All to the good. The use of, say, fiddle or accordion as lead instrument is symptomatic of the album's engaging freshness.

The arrangements, for example, though straightforward, are imaginative in their simplicity: from the churning 'train-song' har-

monica on the title track to pure vocal harmonies and discreet moog on "Whatever's Written In Your Heart".

The lyrics are tempered by a tough realism but, although Rafferty has a clean, clear voice, his words tend to be subsumed by the lovely melodies. Side One alone contains four sure-fire hit singles; Side Two is almost as good.

My one complaint is that the album's production tends to blend all instruments into one smooth texture. To this listener at least, a clearer contrast of tone and timbre would have afforded more enjoyment. As it is the tracks somewhat suffer from overall 'sameness'.

But, gripes aside, it's a fine set which ably maintains the standard of the single. *City to City* is worth the fare.

**Peter Thomson**

**801**  
**801 Live**  
*Polydor*

Any Citizen Band devotees in the audience will have noticed that they do funny things to "You Really Got Me" by the Kinks. This record is of interest to those who might like to be able to shout out witty things while they are playing it. Note for note, their version ap-



Cheap Trick — Tom Petersson, Bun E. Carlos, Rick Nielsen and Robin Zander.

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