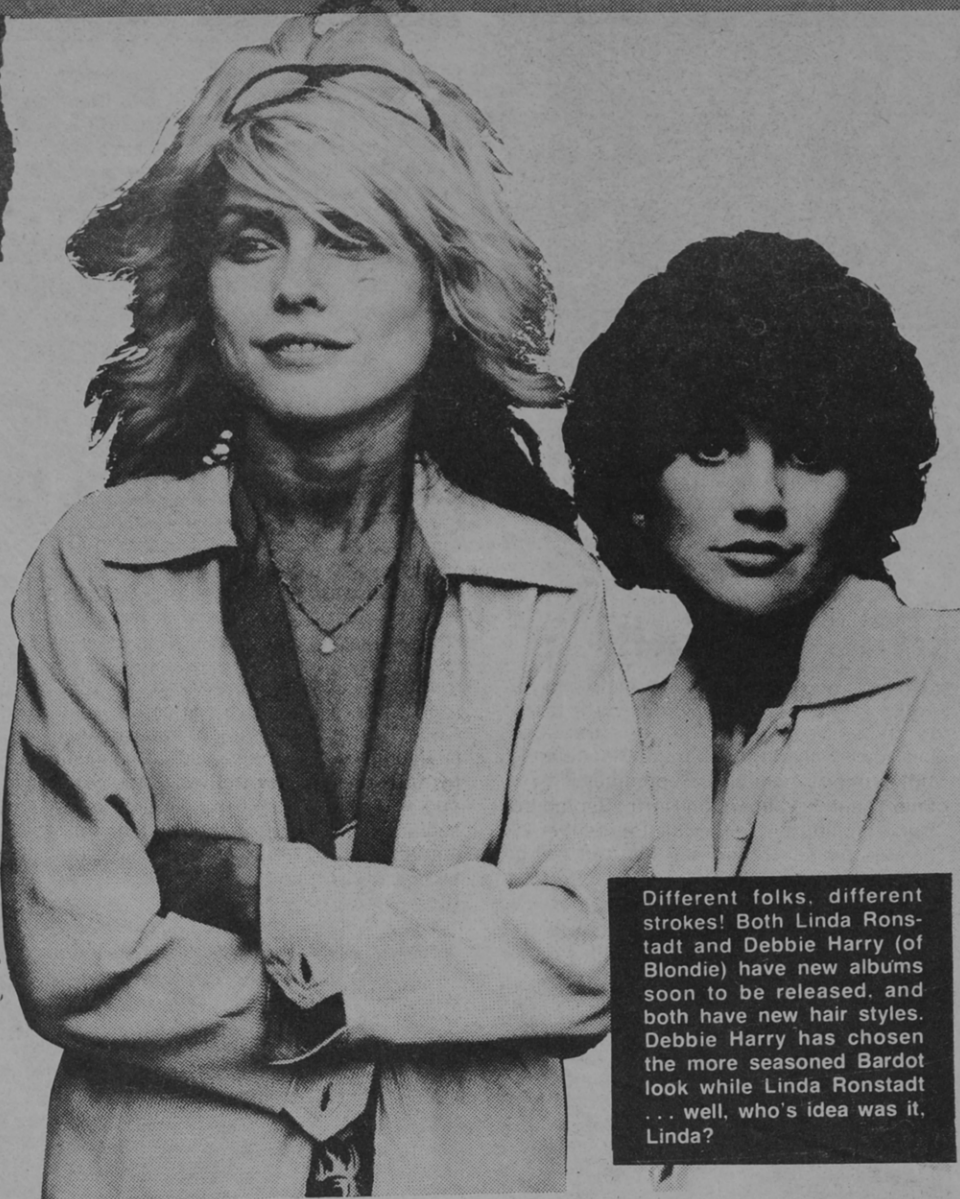


Small stuff

The first anniversary of **Elvis Presley's** death passed relatively quietly last month, despite the fact that Memphis, the rock 'n' roll singer's burial place, was attempting to cope with the effects of a strike by police and firemen. Fewer fans than expected turned up at Presley's Graceland mansion, but the commercial bonanza that began just over a year ago continues unabated. Since his death Presley associated products have grossed over \$1000 million and the flood goes on... a new scheme is the merchandising of 2 acres of Elvis' Circle G ranch, the idea being that for an outlay of \$7 the lucky purchaser gets a square inch of land. Now if my calculations are correct that makes 6 million pieces at \$7 a time, which makes lessee, uh... a hell of a lot of money... also Elvis' reputation can hardly have been bolstered in the eyes of many of his fans by the news that the big El had contacted J. Edgar Hoover with the idea of enlisting as an FBI informer. Seems Presley was disgusted at the effect the Beatles and other unkept rockers were having on American youth... meanwhile El's namesake little **Elvis Costello** has been holidaying in Nashville with his wife and son and, reportedly, has recorded some duets with longtime country music stalwart, George Jones. Jones, it is known, has been working on an album of duets with such stars as Willie Nelson, Linda Ronstadt, Waylon Jennings and Emmy-Lou Harris. Could the Costello tracks be connected with this, *Rip It Up* asks? ... and to draw a further connection with the two Elvis's, collectors of trivia will be pleased to know that the new **Linda Ronstadt** album, *Living in the USA*, besides featuring Linda's latest single, Chuck Berry's "Back in the USA", will also include a track from each of the two El's — Presley's "Love Me Tender" and Costello's "My Aim is True"... and while we're on the West Coast of the States, we can report that the new **Eagles** LP, the first to feature their new bass player, Tim B. Schmit, will be a double album of material recorded in Miami which should hit the shops in time for



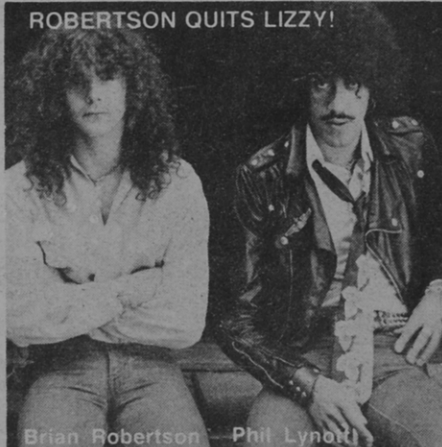
Different folks, different strokes! Both Linda Ronstadt and Debbie Harry (of Blondie) have new albums soon to be released, and both have new hair styles. Debbie Harry has chosen the more seasoned Bardot look while Linda Ronstadt... well, who's idea was it, Linda?

Christmas... and conflicting reports are filtering through about the new **Fleetwood Mac** platter. One set of reports has the album completed, while other sources note that the band has booked time in an LA studio for the next 10 months. You figure it out... ex-Eagles bass player, **Randy Meisner** doesn't seem to be exactly starving to death. The observant among you will have noted that Randy, on the cover of his first album, is

photographed with a '50s Mercury auto. Seems this is one of 25 classic cars that Randy owns, he's a specialist in Fords and owns a 1915 Model T, a '31 coupe and a '31 pick-up among others... and diminutive **Irv Azoff** (he's 5 foot three for the record), manager of the **Eagles** and **Boz Scaggs** among others, was approached by an RSO records executive to inquire about the possibility of having Scaggs' "Lowdown" put on the soundtrack of a film they were putting together. Azoff was unimpressed with their offer and told the exec where to put his soundtrack. Of course, the film turned out to be *Saturday Night Fever* and Scaggs would have made \$1 million minimum from its inclusion in the film. Boz Scaggs' reaction? "I'm disappointed obviously," he said, "but I was glad to have 'Lowdown' in *Looking for Mr Goodbar*." ... and what would *Small Stuff* be without some **Sex Pistols** news? **John Lydon** (once Johnny Rotten) has changed the name of his new band from the Carniverous Buttock Flies to the more acceptable title of Public Image. The band's first single, also titled "Public Image", will be released in September and an album is due a couple of months thereafter. A tour of Britain is scheduled for November. According to a spokesman for Virgin Records, "Public

work out on a new Pistols number; second bassist, Jimmy Bain from Rainbow, was then added and the complete aggregation pumped out the last Pistols' single. "No-One is Innocent". Enter ace guitarist, Chris Spedding who sang his "Motorbikin" and then the assembled congregation combined to churn out a little ditty entitled "Pretty Greedy" (sung to the tune of "Pretty Vacant"), the chorus of which is: "We're so greedy/Oh so greedy/We're bastards"... and it should be noted about here that this gig marked the unofficial debut of guitarist Gary Moore as a permanent member of **Thin Lizzy**. Moore replaces Brian Robertson who sustained various injuries earlier this year (three broken ribs and a fractured cheekbone) which would have prevented him touring with the band. He therefore seized on this opportunity to reassess his future. Gary Moore, besides being a fulltime member of Thin Lizzy in 1974, stood in for Robertson on an American tour last year... and **The Who's** new album, *Who Are You*, should see NZ release in the next couple of months. The album features three songs by John Entwistle, while the remainder are Pete Townshend compositions. The band are aided on the record by **Andy Fairweather-Low** on background vocals and **Rod Argent** on keyboards. But there is to be no Who tour to promote the album. It appears that while Moon, Daltry and Entwistle are keen to go out on the road, Townshend refuses to leave his wife and family... and while we're talking about the big league, it's about time for the latest gossip on the **Rolling Stones**. Firstly, the next pressings of the *Some Girls* album throughout the world will have the faces of Raquel Welch and Lucille Ball blacked out on the cover. This comes as a result of threatened legal action by the two ladies. The American cover will bear the legend: "Please accept our apologies, we are being reconstructed", in place of the two faces... and the next Stones single is in doubt. Jagger wants it to be "Beast of Burden" but the record company are holding out for "Respectable"... the paternity suit filed in Los Angeles in mid-August which froze Mick Jagger's share of the 1/2 million dollars earned from two LA concerts, has been settled out of court. The action was brought by actress-singer **Marsha Hunt** on behalf of her daughter, Karis, who allegedly is also Mick's child. Mick was reportedly paying \$17 a week for the child's upkeep, but Hunt was claiming \$2,300 a month. No details of the settlement were disclosed... **Keith Richard** has been putting down material for a possible solo LP. He's now stacked away nearly an album's worth and is keen to put out his version of Chuck Berry's uletide number "Run, Rudolph, Run" as a single... and Keef when asked why the Stones album is titled *Some Girls* replied: "Because we couldn't remember their f**king names"... and **Keef, Ron Wood** and **Mick** all make guest appearances on the new Peter Tosh LP which will be released on Rolling Stone Records... as **Dylan's** world-wide gigs draw to a close, I guess we can say goodbye to Dylan, the public figure, but over the last month he's continued to be in the news. When asked by a *Melody Maker* reporter his reaction to **Elvis Presley's** death, he replied: "I had a breakdown! I broke down... one of the very few times. I went over my whole life. I went over my whole childhood. I didn't talk to anyone for a week after Elvis died. If it wasn't for Elvis and Hank Williams, I couldn't be doing what I do today."... meanwhile the Zim has been tidying himself up. He bought \$4,000 worth of leather jackets in London and reputedly rang up **Willie deVill** to get the name of his tailor. Seems Dylan was especially interested in purple polka-dot shirts and sharkskin suits... as we reported last month **Jefferson Starship** had their fair share of problems on their European tour. The band are now back in the States and various American shows have had to be cancelled while **Grace Slick** recovers from "emotional strain"... and the other Starship vocalist, **Marty Balin**, who has consistently refused to commit himself to Starship on a permanent basis, is finishing up a rock-opera titled *Rock Justice*. The opera, a "business parody", shows a rock musician put on trial for failing to produce a hit. Balin will play the role of the luckless musician... **Peter Bardens** long-time creative mainstay of British rock band, **Camel**, has quit the group on the completion of their new album *Breathless*. He now intends to work with **Van Morrison**, with whom he played in Them, and Bardens is also featured on Morrison's forthcoming LP *Wavelength*... but Morrison doesn't maintain such good relations with all the musicians he's played with. **Ray Parker**, now guitarist and creator of the group **Raydio**, who once played with Morrison had this to say of him: "He's a total asshole. I was trying to play his music and he kept accusing me of deliberately messing up. He said I was a conspirator from the record company. I mean do I look like a Warner Brothers spy?" he told *NME*... at **Genesis's** recent New York concert ex-vocalist, Peter Gabriel, joined the band onstage for their encore, "I Know

ROBERTSON QUILTS LIZZY!



Brian Robertson — Phil Lynott

Image are far more concerned with being a busy touring band than were the Sex Pistols"... meanwhile Lydon's colleagues in the Pistols, guitarist **Steve Jones** and drummer **Paul Cook** popped up on the final night of **The Clash's** recent British tour to aid them through their encores... Jones and Cook also feature on **Johnny Thunder's** first solo album, alongside Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy, members of the Hot Rods and Steve Marriott... and various Thin Lizzy members, Jones and Cook, and assorted other rock 'n' roll celebrities turned up under the name of **The Greedies** at a recent London club date. First on were Thin Lizzy, who roared through typical numbers such as "The Boys Are Back in Town" and "Don't Believe a Word", as well as some songs you'd be unlikely to find in a more usual Lizzy set, such as Mink deVill's "Spanish Stroll" and Stevie Wonder's "Jesus Children of America". Then Jones and Cook joined the Lizzy line-up to

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