



RCA/Columbia have come up with an interesting batch of releases for this month, including Sydney Lumet's *Daniel* (starring Tim Hutton); Albert Finney in *The Dresser*; Peter Sellers in *Dr Strangelove*; Richard Attenborough's *Young Winston*; Woody Allen's comment on commie paranoia, *The Front*; and Charles Bronson in *The Evil That Men Do*.

From CEL comes: Pink Floyd's *The Wall*; *Reckless*, starring Darryl Hannah and featuring music by INXS, Bob Seger, Kim Wilde; the Marx Brothers' *At the Circus*; *Winter Kills*, starring Jeff Bridges, Anthony Perkins; *Pope John Paul II*, with Albert Finney as His Holiness; and *Frankenstein* (cast includes John Gielgud).

**Roadshow** have: Nick Nolte, Gene Hackman and Joanna Cassidy in the much-praised *Under Fire*; Cher in *Silkwood*; the slightly

spoofy horror pic *Alligator*; and *Heart of a Champion*, the true story of the dying Terry Fox's 5000 mile run across Canada with an artificial leg, to raise money for cancer research.

The various **VideoCorp** labels have releases including: The Rolling Stones compilation, *Rewind*; Racquel Welch in *The Legend of Walks Far Woman*; Richard Pryor, Fred Williamson and James Brown(!) in *Adios Amigo*, a western; Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Pumping Iron*; A Quiet Day In Belfast, starring Margot Kidder; and the video nasty that became infamous in Britain, *Driller Killer*.

**CBS Fox Video** offers an early Tom Cruise movie, released in the wake of his recent success, *All the Right Moves*; and, in its *Cine* range, Cary Grant and Tony Curtis in *Operation Petticoat* and John Wayne in *The Fighting Seabees*.

#### Thompson Twins Into the Gap Live (Virgin Video)

This 80-minute stereo videotape shows the end result of the Thompson Twins' rags-to-riches story and it will either delight you or confirm your prejudices. Expatriate NZer Alannah Currie provides one of the tape's most illuminating moments when she breaks down on the tour bus and explains, through the tears, just what it's like to be Alannah Currie, pop star and media personality.



Thompson Twins live on video.

The stage show, recorded outside at a California racetrack, is smothered in hi-tech lighting and visual effects. None of the three frontpeople can be called an outstanding musician, as is apparent, nor are they any great shakes as vocalists. What they have is an ability to write catchy songs which are a suitable backdrop to their visual image — they are an animated cartoon brought to life. At their best, they sustain the fine line between fantasy and reality. The danger, as this clever video shows, is that reality will someday catch up with them. Meanwhile, *Into the Gap Live* is available for purchase for \$49.

**Duncan Campbell**

#### The Outsiders (RCA/Columbia)

One thing is immediately apparent on watching *The Outsiders* — it wasn't made for video. Francis Ford Coppola has framed his shots with the action stretched to the edges of the widescreen. The result is more than a few scenes featuring half a face to the left and right of the telly screen and an expanse of space in the middle. It would be interesting to see if the director's intended images were framed in sympathy with the deliberate speech-bubble dialogue. Y'see, Susie Hinton's original novel was a very adolescent work that drew its characters with the broadest of strokes and didn't waste time on niceties like scene-setting and character development. So Coppola (after a nice little nod to Hinton to open) jumps straight into a backdrop that just is and proceeds to hurtle his characters through the plot at

breakneck speed. It's fully 40 minutes into the film before there's even slight respite from the action. Even then the philosophical dialogue takes place in the midst of an overpowering Zoetrope Studios indoor 'sunset'. In another quiet scene it's the score that renders things wildly melodramatic. C. Thomas Howell, Matt Dillon and Ralph Macchio are suitably confused and growing up, confused and tough and confused and waiflike respectively, but, as usual, it's Coppola's movie. I'm looking forward to sometime seeing Coppola's second (and reportedly better) Hinton adaptation, *Rumblefish* — and to *The Outsiders* coming back to the big screen.

**Unfaithfully Yours (CBS/Fox)**

In which our Dud hits an all-time low; playing a wealthy orchestra conductor married to a beautiful young woman (Natassja Kinski). He mistakenly believes she is being unfaithful, gets drunk and fantasises about doing away with wife and lover. There are few genuinely funny, let alone original moments in this movie. Dudley Moore has found his niche in life — typecast as a misunderstood, spoilt, rich drunkard (*10*, *Arthur*, etc.) It was funny one — now it's hackneyed and trite. The things some people will do for money! PR

#### The Right Stuff (Warner) The Day After (Roadshow)

Two sides of the technology joke. *The Right Stuff* has a snappy punchline that send you away grinning. It seems to say that the function of man is to ride increasingly sophisticated and thrilling machines to increasingly unbelievable heights, speeds and places, while their womenfolk proudly watch 'em die.

Director and writer Paul Kaufman skillfully and wittily shows us the circumstances around the beginnings of US manned spaceflight and the humanity of the first Americans into space (dogs, chimps and the Reds beat 'em to it). He does almost everything right, with only the opening half hour being less than entertaining, but something doesn't quite gell.

The astronauts look just like they used to and make very believable heroes, but Sam Shepard as Chuck Yeager (famous test pilot who didn't accept the call

of Cape Canaveral and the real possessor of *The Right Stuff*) doesn't convince as do few of the wives. Just niggling things, though, and not enough to deter you from hiring this 'un. At least it's made me very curious to read Tom Wolfe's book on which it is based.

Now the sick joke with no punchline, just a fade to black. *The Day After* is a nuclear aftermath movie along the lines of *The War Game* by Peter Watkins and *Threads* which screened on TV last year. This video is head and shoulders below the others but is wholly laudable purely as one more nail in the nuclear coffin. It's American and was released both as a two-part TV mini-series and a theatrical film, so there's a lot of compromise involved. Like there's a bit too much plot and the total picture is one of *Grapes Of Wrath* scale tragedy rather than the howling, writhing horror of nuclear reality. The closing credits actually include a quasi-apology for the lack of guts that didn't trace the situation to its probable extreme. But again, it's worth seeing and supporting, 'cos there's not much box-office success coming out of the States that has any integrity and this is at least saying something infinitely important.

So, two stories that couldn't have been brought to us without rocket power. To the planets or oblivion? The choice isn't ours.

**Chris Knox**

## Video Aid Hits Enzed

Having conquered the charts in one fell swoop, the Band Aid people have now released a video compilation, aimed at raising more money to feed the starving millions in Ethiopia.

*Video Aid* (Virgin) sells for \$39.98 and features clips from the likes of Wham, Ultravox, Elton John, Paul McCartney, Culture Club, Heaven 17, Peter Gabriel, Duran Duran, U2, Spandau Ballet, Paul Young, the Style Council, Bananarama, Eurythmics ... it's a big list.

It's in colour, it's in stereo, it lasts 90 minutes, there's some-

thing to satisfy everyone, which is more than sufficient reason for everyone to buy a copy. Especially if you can afford a VCR. DC

## Chills Head Nun Assault in the UK

The way is being paved most encouragingly for the Chills' forthcoming UK venture, with nice things being said in public about Chills records and others in the Flying Nun catalogue.

The *NME* ran a story and picture of the foursome in its April 27 issue, with very much of a "look out for" tone. It quoted FN's Roger Shepherd and also noted that NZ "is, they say, teeming with garage-type groups who play to small audiences in the very small market there."

All three Chills singles, the Verlaines' 'Death and the Maiden' and the Doublehappys' single all got what could only be described as rave reviews in the April *Zig Zag*. The Great Unwashed had to settle for a merely good review, while Fetalmania (what Fetus Productions are calling themselves in Europe) got dumped on from a great height for their single version of 'I Am A Criminal'. Tall Dwarfs didn't actually get a review, but were described as "splendid" in passing. High praise has also apparently been accorded by *Jamming* magazine.

And American NZ music aficionado, Ken Barnes, who now writes for *Creem*, had favourable words to say about Mockers, Coconut Rough, Dance Exponents, Doublehappys and Car Crash Set singles in the last issue of that mag.

A mini-album of the Chills' finest old and new material will be out soonish on UK indie Creation Records. Creation currently has a high media profile over there, thanks mainly to the antics of the controversial Jesus and Mary Chain and of the label's boss Alan McGhee. Flying Nun is to reciprocate the Chills' release by releasing the J & MC's indie hit 'Upside Down' in this country.

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#### NEW NEW NEW

Jeffrey Lee Pierce: Wildweed (first solo by Gun Club vocalist)  
Meat Puppets: Up On the Sun  
Birthday Party: It's Still Living (live in Melbourne, 1982)  
Sickidz: I Could Go To Hell For You  
(EP produced by Lux and Ivy of the Cramps)  
Alan Vega & Martin Rev: Suicide

#### INDUSTRIAL SOUNDS

Test Department: Shoulder To Shoulder  
Residents: Census Taker  
Heavy Duty Breaks: Various  
(including 23 Skiddo, 400 Blows, etc.)  
Hula: Cut From the Inside  
Severed Heads: City Slab Horror  
Einsturzende Neubauten: Yu Gung 12"  
Princess Tinymeat: Sloblands 12" (ex Virgin Prune's 1st solo)  
Chakk: You 12"

#### PSYCHEDELICS

Velvet Underground: Etc.  
: And So On  
(All the hard to get material)  
Johnny Winter: Progressive Blues Experiment  
Mad River: Mad River  
Nightcrawlers: Little Black Egg  
Zakary Thaks: J Beck Story

#### HARDCORE

Meatmen: Where the Meatmen and You Suck  
Circle Jerks: Wild In the Streets

#### UK PUNK

Exploited: On Stage  
: Horror Epics  
Subhumans: Time Flies But Aeroplanes Crash EP  
Varukers: Live In Holland

#### SUPER SPECIALS

BLACK FLAG: Damaged, \$12.99  
LINTON KWESI JOHNSON: Making History, \$14.99  
SEEDS: Fallin' Off the Edge, \$14.99

#### BACK AGAIN DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

Husker Du: New Day Rising  
: Zen Arcade 2LP  
: Metal Circus  
: Land Speed Record  
: Eight Miles High 7"

Black Flag: Nervous Breakdown 7"  
Flux Of Pink Indians: The FCs Treat Us Like Pricks 2LP  
Anti Nowhere League: We Are the League  
The Fall: Dragnet  
: Totale's Turns  
: Live At the Witch Trials

Swell Maps: A Trip To Marineville  
Cabaret Voltaire: Mix Up  
SPK: Metal Dance 12"  
Acid Trips: 60s Psychedelic Book  
Chocolate Watch Band: The Inner Mystique  
Nuggets: Various (all four volumes back in stock)  
Creation: How Does It Feel To Feel  
Moby Grape: Moby Grape

#### PUBLICATIONS

Cabaret Voltaire: The Art Of the Sixth Sense  
California Hardcore: A History Of Punk and New Wave  
Loud 3D: Hardcore Photo Book With 3D Glasses

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13th Floor Elevators: All titles  
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