



Vanity

Vanity, Wild Animal (Motown)

In which the erstwhile leader of Prince's sex-in-sound proteges joins the opposition team (well, Rick James is on Motown too) but continues to talk dirty. The lady's teased her hair, written lots of suggestive lyrics and joined up with — in a business sense, y'understand — one David Wolfer. Wolfer sets Ms V's verse to music and then together they handle her production. So basically what we get are vigorous and busy slices of technofunk over which come invocations to do interesting things with the semi-breathless vocalist. 'You've made such a) Pretty Mess (of my dress)' is a catchy single and 'Samuelle' makes a welcome and smooth change of rhythm. Not a major affair but certainly more worth a fling than her replacement in the now renamed Apollonia 6.

Dokken
Tooth and Nail (Elektra)

Forget the pathetic cover and the title that fell off the back of a Ted Nugent album: there's a dynamite little record here waiting to shatter your speaker covers. As Los Angeles emerges as a major metal metropolis, Dokken lead the pack, with this, their second album, as brash and confident as they come. With axe hero George Lynch in rampaging form complementing Don Dokken's excellent rock larynx on a selection of consistently strong songs, this band already sound major league. Outlook: very bright indeed.

Queen
Live In Concert (Electra)

A live album "rush-released" by the band's ex-record company to tie in with the Australasian tour. It features a colourful sleeve depicting the group's gargantuan stage set-up and 12 tracks recorded in ... 1977! The cover may be new but the contents are culled from the live double album *Live Killers*. Nothing new here fans — and you probably have it in your collection already anyway.



Loose Ends
Hangin' On A String (Virgin)

A record that could be single of the month in any company, 'Hangin' On A String' is a wonderfully textured, sophisticated groove thang. If this isn't a hit I'll eat my black patent leather Ralph Lauren slip-ons. Gorgeous.

Frankie Goes To Hollywood
Welcome to the Pleasure Dome 12" (ZTT)

"Ere Trev, do you think we can get away with another remix?" "I don't see why not, Paul." Will the real alternative to reality please step forward: Man needs escape as he needs deep sleep and good fun. There is no escape and while this plays there is no sleep either.

Art Of Noise
Close Up 12" (ZTT)

Frankie may be the commercial success of ZTT, but Art Of Noise are definitely the architects of this mode of musical sculpture. More music for fashion shows.

Whitney Houston
How Will I Know 12" (Arista)

If you've read the latest *Shake!* you will know that Whitney Houston is the daughter of soulstress Cissy Houston. Some nice touches, but basically the song is an excuse for a bad chorus.

Koo De Tah
Too Young For Promises 12" (Mercury)

The first thing that hits you is Tina Cross's protruding jaw, the girl, should not pose for profiles. A step in the right direction for the New Zealander now resident in Australia. A slick Berlin rip-off, it should make all the radio playlists.

Mary Jane Girls
In My House (Gordy)

Compared to Rick James, Prince is a no-talent geek. A fantastic piece of sublime funk from the pen of the master P-funker Mr James. Brilliantly delivered by the four smouldering sexpots who have made sleaze one of America's fastest growing industries.

Matt Bianco
Whose Side Are You On (WEA)

Clever as they are, I can't see Matt Bianco making headway with this, the title track from the album. When you consider the superb 'Half A Minute' failed to score, I'm afraid you can't rate their chances highly. 'Sneakin' Out the Backdoor' may have been a better choice of single, if radio airplay is what they're really after.

Mark Phillips

BREWING UP WITH BILLY BRAGG

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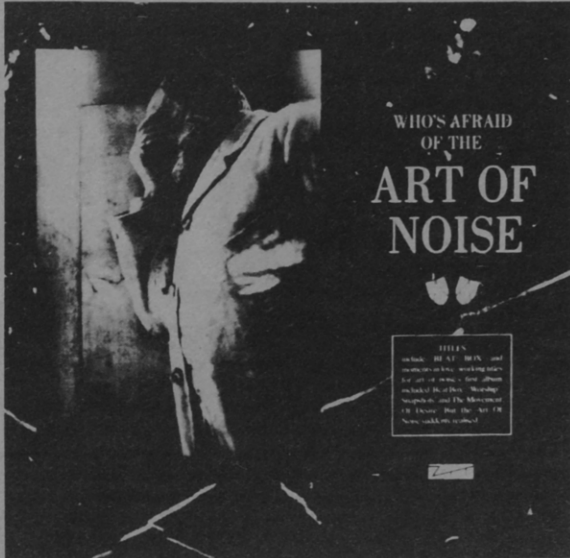
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