

Records

Graham Nash Innocent Eyes (Atlantic)

A long awaited solo project from the man who made a name for himself in the 60s with the Hollies, in the 70s with Crosby and Stills, and in the 80s as the one who is concerned with the future of mankind and his environment. Ten songs in a bright computerised package, which could be sub-titled "Nash discovers American Rock". Gone is the acoustic guitar and the "floating down the river" lyrics; in its place are songs about the arms race ('I Got a Rock'), East and West Berlin ('Over the Wall'), and a celebration of his life now ('Sad Eyes' and 'New Day'), but the two tracks that deserve repeated plays are the title track and 'See You in Prague'. Both up-tempo gems. An album that deserves a lot of attention. SGE

Ozzy Osborne The Ultimate Sin (CBS)

Alright, Ozzy is here! After a block on his product locally, the madman's new release is unleashed on the Kiwis.

A primitive drum beat begins and the latest Blizzard of Ozz storm into such stunning fresh

songs as 'Secret Loser' and 'Shot in the Dark'. Ozzy sings of things nuclear in the classic 'Killer of Giants' and 'Thank God for the Bomb' while guitarist Jake E Lee plays brilliantly, complementing the Ozzy's unique crazy style.

Support the availability of Ozzy's albums and indulge in the ultimate sin. GD

Evelyn "Champagne" King A Long Time Coming/A Change is Gonna Come (RCA)

Even with producers Hawk and Rene and Angela, Evelyn "Champagne" King hasn't got enough sparkle to make this album interesting. There are a couple of fair to middling dance tracks including the current single 'Your Personal Touch', but really the only thing worth noting is a rather enigmatic cover of Sam Cooke's 'A Change is Gonna Come'. Enigmatic, because (despite Hawk's rather pleasing arrangement) there doesn't seem to be the drama or the purpose to this version that the original had. So why do it? The only reason I can guess is either Evelyn is promising the next album will be better, or that like Cooke, she isn't going to be with us much longer. PG

Saxon Strong Arm of the Law (EMI)

Denim and Leather (EMI)
'Heavy Metal Thunder' is the opener on Strong Arm of the Law

and suitably describes what Saxon are all about. On this album Biff Byford and the boys soar full on into '20,000 Feet', rock hard through 'Sixth Form Girls' and finish off with a good tribute to J F Kennedy in 'Dallas 1pm'.

Denim and Leather also boasts a loud line-up of songs like 'Princess of the Night' and the anthemic title track. Both of these albums have not been available for quite a few years and EMI have now re-released them with a limited amount being on red vinyl. GD

Emmylou Harris Thirteen (Warner Bros)

A selection of 10 songs covering the serene country ballads, a touch of rockabilly, western swing and honky tonk music, from the princess of contemporary country music. This, her thirteenth album (as the title suggests), pulls no punches nor presents any surprises. Emmylou opens with a pleasant version of the track that the early Elvis made famous, 'Mystery Train', but adds nothing new to it. There are two tracks co-written by her and the co-producer ('When I Was Yours' and 'Sweetheart of the Pines'). Springsteen's 'My Father's House' and a guest appearance by 60s guitar hero Duane Eddy on 'I Had My Heart Set on You'. Nothing new here really. It all smouldered but fails to catch fire. Nice though. SGE

Singles Bar

The Costello Show Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood (F-Beat 12")

Well not really Elvis but the re-emergence of Declan Patrick McManus, hence the symbolic cover of the Animals' 'Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood'. Interesting interpretation of a standard, he sounds slightly crazed and desperate — but I like that. The flip has two hits with a cover of 'Get Yourself Another Fool' being more than 'Almost Blue'.

Prince Kiss (WEA 12")

Even if you already own the Parade album this is worth owning. The re-mix keeps the guitar groove grinding like James Brown and the band work on a P-Funk jam. This is the modern mother-ship connection. Play the flip on 33rpm and it sounds like the great Sly Stone.

Cherrelle, Alexander O'Neal Saturday Love (Epic 12")

A favourite one this month with "Cherrelle" playing the longing chanteuse and Alexander the cool Romeo. Great groove fashioned by

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis that makes this soul croon float.

Ruby Turner If You're Ready (Come Go with Me) (Jive 12")

Butler plays the guitar and Ruby Turner handles the vocals on this sweet version of the Staple Singers' classic. Reminds me of Womack and Womack's first album in that the production is nice and simple with the emphasis on the voices. Turner has had a busy career as a session singer, with releases as good as this her solo career will be even better.

Aretha Franklin Another Night (Arista 12")

Sad story of a great soul voice getting swamped by the mix. The dance mix cracks along until the boys at the desk turn on the effects — too much. Are you sure Arif Mardin would have done it this way?

Smokey Robinson Hold on to Your Love (Motown)

He still has that voice but his material and arrangements have not been that essential of late. Sadly this doesn't change and it's not helped by a decline in Stevie Wonder's songwriting. The chorus is cute but not enough to save it.

Sigue Sigue Sputnik Love Missile (Parlophone 12")

Hey, this is some dumb fun. Mix in equal parts of Clockwork Orange, Eddie Cochran, Euro-

disco, the Sweet and sex, and you have this wild bunch of smart media brats. Motley Crue they're not, even if they do have the same tailor. Hey, this is great — it reminds me of 'Yummy Yummy Yummy'.

Ta Mara and the Seen Everybody Dance (A&M 12")

Another blast of Minneapolis-styled funk! rock that Morris Day and Jessie Johnson have traded marked. This Minneapolis Miss sang on Jessie's album, and goes solo on this one. An uneventful attempt to lure you onto the dance floor. The flip contains an instrumental sounding like Vangelis — deep and meaningless.

Animation I Engineer (Polygram 12")

Wow — pop music with a message, don't you just love it. Animation sound like they're aiming for a spot on the next Miss Universe show with this anthem for teens everywhere. Great — it sounds like Boney M.

Cliff Richard and the Young Ones Living Doll (WEA 12")

Well, you already know about this, straight to No 1 and it should stay there for weeks. All the proceeds are going to the work of Save the Children Fund and Oxfam. Neil and Vy provide the best laughs and if you can't stand Un-

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