



BEST GROUP

1 XTC. 2 The Police. 3 Talking Heads. 4 Rolling Stones. 5 The Jam.

BEST NEW ARTIST

1 The Police. 2 The Undertones. 3 The Cure. 4 B52s. 5 Gary Numan.

BEST ALBUM

1 *Drums and Wires*, XTC 2 *Fear Of Music*, Talking Heads. 3 = *Reggatta De Blanc*, Police / *The Wall*, Pink Floyd / *It's Alive*, The Ramones. 4 *At The Chelsea Nightclub*, Members. 5 *Live Rust*, Neil Young.

BEST SINGLE

1 "Making Plans For Nigel", XTC. 2 "Roxanne", Police. 3 "Public Image", PIL. 4 "Rebel", Toy Love. 5 = "Gangsters", Specials / "Radio Radio", Elvis Costello / "Another Girl Another Planet", Only Ones.

BEST MALE VOCALIST

1 David Bowie. 2 Andy Partridge, XTC. 3 Elvis Costello. 4 Sting, Police. 5 = John Lydon / Neil Young.

BEST FEMALE VOCALIST

1 Debbie Harry. 2 Pauline Murray, Penetration. 3 Lene Lovich. 4 = Sharon O'Neill / Patti Smith / Rickie Lee Jones. 5 Poly Styrene.

BEST NZ GROUP

1 Split Enz. 2 Toy Love. 3 = Citizen Band / Mi-Sex. 4 The Swingers. 5 Th'Dudes.

BEST NZ ALBUM

1 *AK. 79* (Toy Love, Swingers, Primmers, Marching Girls, Proud Scum, Terrorways). 2 *Graffiti Crimes*, Mi-Sex. 3 *Frenzy*, Split Enz. 4 *True Colours*, Split Enz. 5 *Just Drove Thru Town*, Citizen Band.

BEST NZ SINGLE

1 "Rebel", Toy Love. 2 "Computer Games", Mi-Sex. 3 "I See Red", Split Enz. "I Got You", Split Enz. "Lonely Hearts", Sheerlux.

BEST NZ VOCALIST

1 Chris Knox, Toy Love. 2 Tim Finn, Split Enz. 3 Steve Gilpin, Mi-Sex. 4 Sharon O'Neill. 5 Paul Robinson, ex-Sheerlux.

BEST NZ DRUMMER

1 Brent Eccles, Citizen Band. 2 Mike Dooley, Toy Love. 3 Buster Stiggs, Swingers. 4 Malcolm Green, Split Enz. 5 Ricky Ball, Hello Sailor.

BEST NZ BASSIST

1 Mike Chunn, ex-Citizen Band. 2 Bones Hillman, Swingers. 3 Paul Keen, Toy Love. 4 Roland Kileen, ex-Sheerlux, now in CB. 5 Nigel Griggs, Split Enz.

BEST NZ GUITARIST

1 Phil Judd, Swingers. 2 Alec Bathgate, Toy Love. 3 Dave Dobbyn, Th'Dudes. 4 Greg Clark, ex-Citizen Band. 5 = Neil Finn, Split Enz / Steve Roach, Sheerlux.

BEST NZ KEYBOARDS

1 Eddie Raynor, Split Enz. 2 Jane Walker, Toy Love. 3 Murray Burns, Mi-Sex. 4 Stuart Pearce, Street Talk. 5 Sharon O'Neill.

BEST CONCERT '79

1 Members, Mainstreet. 2 Talking Heads tour. 3 = Cheap Trick tour / Split Enz tour. 4 Citizen Band, Auckland Town Hall. 5 Toy Love in a pub.

FAVOURITE FILM

1 *Kid's Are Alright*. 2 *Animal House*. 3 *Midnight Express*. 4 = *The Warriors* / *Star Trek*. 5 *Up In Smoke*.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW

1 *Radio With Pictures*. 2 *SOAP* 3 *The Prisoner*. 4 *Professionals*. 5 *Kenny Everett Video Show*. 6 *Ready To Roll*.

FAVOURITE RADIO PERSONALITY

1 Barry Jenkin. 2 Fred Botica. 3 Bryan Staff. 4 John Hood. 5 Kevin Black. 6 John Barry. 7 Mark Morgan.

Poor Police. A worse blowout of a tour would be hard to imagine. And none of it their fault. Nobody's fault, really.

Sting had the bad luck to pick up one of those viruses in Hong Kong, leaving him voiceless. Andy got it too, but recovered. Sting, who has to carry all the singing chores, also caught flu, further aggravating things. By the time he emerged from an exhaustive Customs search at Christchurch he was as white as a sheet and one step away from collapse.

The Christchurch gigs went ahead, the first night spoilt by a power failure early in the show. The following night, everything worked and the normally reserved Avonsiders went apples.

That was to the cost of Wellington and Auckland. The Sting throat gave up the ghost, and blooie went four shows. Nobody was more upset than The Police. What's more, with their commitments, it'll be next January before they enter this part of the world again.

They left with fingers crossed and Sting stuffed to the eyebrows with antibiotics. Ahead of them were shows across Australia, then on to Thailand, India and Egypt.

Sting stayed long enough to receive his gold discs when the band met the Press in Auckland, then went off to bed. Copeland and Summers were left to field the questions, and bless them, they still had their senses of humour intact, despite all they'd been through.

ALTER EGO

Copeland even managed to laugh off a question about his mysterious alter ego, Clark Kent. He's recorded a single or two under that name for an independent British label, and true to the form of all superheroes, he continues to deny that he and Kent are one in the same.

"Clark Kent has an album due out in April," he says. "But he's a busy guy, being president of a number of multi-national oil firms. He has commitments as a religious leader as well."

Sting, it is revealed, is currently considering two film offers, having already made his name



in *Quadrophenia* and *The Great Rock n' Roll Swindle*. One of the films is being directed by moviefuhrer Francis Ford Coppola. An honour indeed. But the role is that of a rock star and Sting doesn't want to be typecast. So he's yet to make up his mind.

Copeland claims the honour of being the only drummer to play a Saturn V rocket. That happened while they were filming a clip of "Walking On The Moon" at Cape Canaveral.

Away from the artificial atmosphere of the news conference, Copeland talks about *Reggatta de Blanc*:

"We did a lot more improvisation. I think it's a lot slicker album, and more organised, and that's because we'd been playing together longer.

"When we did *Outlandos* we rehearsed those songs in the studio without too many gigs and we hadn't really cottoned onto improvisation at that point. So it just came down to the songs, and they were good songs.

"But with the second album, we'd been touring constantly, with lots of improvisation on stage, so when we did the album we'd had no rehearsal at all, and we just arranged the material in the studio, and recorded it.

"Message In A Bottle", for instance, when we recorded it, was about 20 minutes long in its original take, just getting the chord changes and the choruses. Then we took out the scissors and cut it down. So actually, it was rehearsed, arranged and recorded at the same time."

BETTER LIVE

This approach shows up very strongly in the album, which hints at what can be done with the songs in a live setting. Stu says the songs from *Reggatta* work better on stage, but that is only to be expected in the sterile aura of the recording studio. Stu is much happier on stage, when the bad gets a chance to jam.

"Those parts are more fun, when you take chances and every gig is different. You feel more of a buzz when there are some chances being taken."

Outlandos owed more to reggae than to jazz, a trend which was reversed on the second album.

"Maybe we'd had a chance to get further into our own direction with it (reggae) on the second album. We were originally inspired by it, but we never were attempting to re-create it. We just picked up a feel from it and did our own thing with it."

Copeland is quick to acknowledge the debt The Police owe to the new wave and the way it changed musical attitudes.

"Before the punk revolution it was not possible."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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