

**PAUL MCCARTNEY**  
**MCCARTNEY II**  
**PARLOPHONE**

All right, new wavers, we're going to look at the new Paul McCartney album ... hello, hello, anyone still out there?

McCartney is an easy target for a slagging. But that would be too easy. He is very rich, probably need never work again. That he does keep working suggests his work is his play.

Writing of the Beatles, Nik Cohn said of McCartney, "He's melodic, pleasant, inventive but he's too much syrup." Cohn also noted McCartney's "knack of knocking out instantly attractive melody lines" and "a certain saving humour." In a nutshell.

Ten years ago, at a time when studio technology had become almost an obsession (largely due to the work of the Beatles), McCartney rather bravely put out a home-made album, *McCartney*, on which he played all the instruments. It had an unfinished quality, as if the listener was at home with Paul as he tried out ideas, some worked out, some just fragments. Generally misunderstood, it was a lot of fun, silly in the best sense.

*McCartney II* is along similar lines, although rather more polished than its predecessor. It also has more songs — the catchy chant of "Coming Up", already a hit, the bluesy "On The Way", and the Beatle-ish sound wash of "Waterfall" being among the better ones. For a supposed dinosaur McCartney is still light on his feet.

Planned originally as a do-it-yourself cassette for McCartney's car, the album was recorded at home in Sussex and Scotland. It is melodic, pleasant, inventive and occasionally syrupy. Above all, McCartney sounds as if it was fun doing it — and that, surely, is his point.

**Ken Williams**

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**HICKS FROM THE STICKS**  
**ROCKBURGH**

This is a compilation album with an axe to grind. Compiled by Nigel Burnham, aka Des Moines, the North of England's leading rock reviewer, *Hicks From the Sticks* contains sixteen songs from different Northern bands who, according to Burnham, are just some of the talent presently being ignored by London based record companies.

Like the Cherry Red compilations, but probably even more so, *Hicks* contains a number of songs that are astonishing in their diversity and richness of ideas. The Cherry Red albums tended to focus on those bands with garage leanings whereas the Rockburgh morsel, whether by accident or design, emphasises newcomers with a greater degree of sophistication and expertise.

Picking the best is difficult because they all have something to offer. Aircraft are new generation XTC on "Move in Rhythm", Music For Pleasure take their cue from the Human League, Ada Wilson and Keeping Dark are 80's

Merseyside and Medium Medium, Modern Eon, Clock DVA, the Distributors and Nightmares in Wax all deal enticingly with their personalised contemporary viewpoints with debts to the Gang of Four.

The next three deserve special mention. Radio 5's "True Colours" is quirky and catchy and They Must Be Russians' "Where Have I Seen You" is unusual in its blend of monotone and almost Celtic folk guitar flourishes. Wah' Heat provide the album's classic in "Hey Disco Joe", a song that combines tension, tune and Liverpool accents before breaking into a guitar bracket of sharp intensity.

And not one ska band in sight.

*Hicks From the Sticks* this lot may be but as a showcase for real grass roots talent this album and these Northerners would take some beating.

**George Kay**



*Martha and the Muffins*

**IN BRIEF**

**Ry Cooder (and others), The Long Riders**  
**(Warner Brothers)**

Ry Cooder has composed a remarkable soundtrack for the film *The Long Riders*, Walter (The Warriors) Hill's account of the rise and fall of the Jesse James gang in the American middle-west of the post-Civil War period. Cooder mixes traditional songs ("I'm a Good Old Rebel", "Rally 'Round the Flag", "Jesse James") with new compositions that follow antique lines. The effect is exquisite. This is one of the few movie soundtrack albums that makes perfect sense on its own. Cooder himself calls it "Missouri style oldtime music." Director Walter Hill puts it better: "Ry has a habit of reaching into traditional sounds, reinterpreting and making the result singly his own. I think he's done it one more time." KW

**Martha and the Muffins, Metro Music (Dindisc)**

This Canadian six-piece fronted by two ladies named Martha stirred up a little dust earlier in the year with the "Echo Beach" forty-five. It sounded fresh, catchy and eager-to-please as indeed does the album.

On songs like "Hide and Seek" and "Paint

**THE NAMBASSA FILM**

It will have its first public screening, The Premier, at the Civic Theatre, Auckland on Sunday July 20, 2pm, as part of the Auckland International Film Festival.

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**peter gabriel**

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This Last Week			
1	(3)	Peter Gabriel	Peter Gabriel (Charisma)
2	(15)	Hot Wax	Various (K-Tel)
3	(1)	Flesh & Blood	Roxy Music (Polydor)
4	(2)	McCartney 2	Paul McCartney (Parlophone)

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\* includes the hit single: "Games Without Frontiers".