

B R I E F S

Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band
Nine Tonight (Capitol)

After the last Fleetwood, Mac and Eagles' releases, could it be that the double-live set is becoming the terminal gasp of seventies megastars? Bob Seger too? He's worth more than both the above outfits combined. Actually, this is Seger's second live-double. The other served as a red-hot clearing-house for many of his great songs prior to international popularity. *Nine Tonight's* contents are nearly all well-known and these versions do nothing other than show how good the band is. In 1976 *Live Bullet* was an important album; in 1981, though better played and better recorded, *Nine Tonight* is not. PT

Little Feat
Hoy Hoy (Warner Brothers)

As the last testament from a band that dominated so many turntables (including mine) for over half the 70s, *Hoy Hoy* is an oddly shapeless collection. Spread over four sides, it is neither all previously unreleased — three tracks are off the first two albums — not really even all Feat's; there's a couple of Lowell's solo efforts and a new, definitely non-Feat number by Bill Payne. Many of the best cuts are live and generally superior to 1977's flatulent *Waiting For Columbus* live set. Via liner notes and a very worthwhile booklet, the compilation does achieve some focus as a momento to Lowell George. Featfreaks will want *Hoy Hoy* regardless: the unconverted are still advised to start with 73's *Dixie Chicken*. PT

Ian Hunter
Short Back N' Sides (Chrysalis)

The theme of this outing could be something like: old raincoats never let you down. Hunter has seen a few years and for his new

album he wisely employs the services of Mick Jones as co-producer and musician. The shades still exist but the haircut, like some of the songs, is new. Hunter has opted for balanced diversity. Old ideas (Lisa Likes Rock'n'Roll) mix nicely with classy ballads like 'Rain' and the *Sandinista*-styled social concern of 'Gun Control' and 'Theatre of the Absurd'. Hunter: growing up (old) gracefully. Respect him. GK

Sol
Reaching For The Sun

Very attractive instrumental textures and arrangements, turn-of-the-70s lyrics, and over 50 minutes playing time on this indie cassette done at Harlequin by an aggregation of seemingly like-minded Coromandellians. Especially nice when the ladies are singing together. If Joy Division are standing at one end of the tunnel of love, then Sol and his friends are very definitely at the other. Available for \$9.50 from Reaching For The Sun, Coromandel Post Office. RC

The Equators
Hot (Stiff)

Calling all ska freaks: If you loved the debut albums by the Specials and the Beat, but didn't think much of the follow-ups, have a taste of this. The Equators (according to the blurb) are all under 21, all come from Birmingham, and have enlisted ex-Rumour Bob Andrews as their producer. The music's not bad either, if about 18 months out of date. This band's mentors have passed on to other things. But listen to this album's 'Age Of 5' and 'Mr Copper', and you'd swear nothing had changed. The same cheese organ, the same horns, the same melodica, toasting like Ranking Roger, and at least two songs directly stolen from 'Gangsters'. DC

Nick Mason
Nick Mason's Fictitious Sports (CBS)

The amazing thing is that the Pink Floyd drummer could turn out such an excellent album. The credit goes to Carla Bley, whose band provides the muscle on this album and who wrote every track. Kudos, too, to Robert Wyatt, whose keening vocals dominate. Chris Spedding, Gary Windo and Gary Valente also make sterling contributions. The

MARIANNE FAITHFULL



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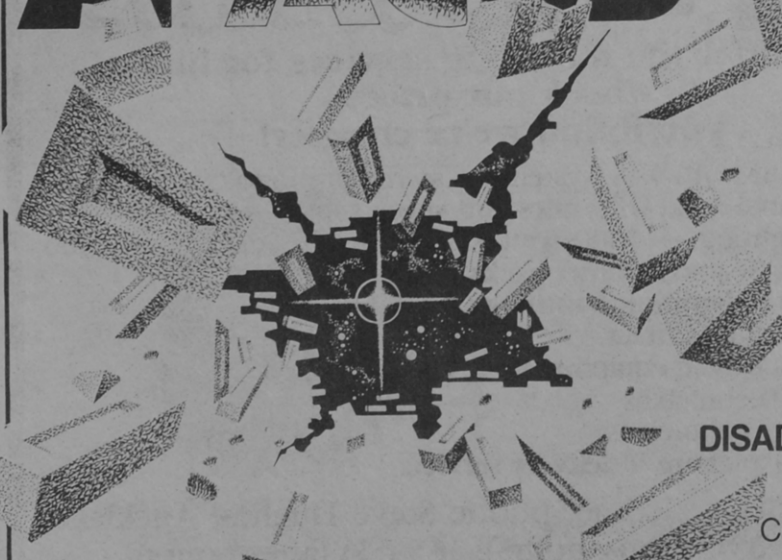
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