

RECORDS

Janis Joplin
Farewell Song (CBS)
At first glance, an album of unreleased Janis Joplin material seems like the scraping of the necrophilia, but this is very good indeed. Six of the nine tracks are with Big Brother and the Holding Company, one each with the

Kozmic Blues Band and the Full Tilt Boogie Band, and, best of all, a hurting song called 'One Night Stand' with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. Definitely the best album Janis never made. KW
Smelly Feet
Left Odours (Real Tapes)
Since parting company with Shoes This High, Smelly Feet has developed his own 'folk music', with his semi-extemporised little tunes (or on occasions non-tunes). Some are autobiographical snippets, some are tales of mundane events or a thought for the day. Some opt for Zen-like

inscrutability and simply are what they are what they are. Among them a few like 'Kenny', 'You're A Person' (although the live version is a bit of a non-event) have a fragile beauty seldom matched anywhere. Elsewhere Smelly's instrumental and vocal limitations sometimes make the going a bit tougher. It's not likely to make big in-roads into the mass market but for those who have seen and heard enough of Smelly Feet to have acquired the taste, this 60 minute cassette (about 20 songs) is well worth the investment. He's best live though. (For Left Odours by post, send \$7.50 to PO Box 6972, Auckland 1.) D.Mck
Shadowfax

Lighthearted EP (Jayrem Records)
Pop/rock tunes from little-known Wellington band Shadowfax. Strong on the synthesisers, it's music of an old-fashioned kind, though certainly not out-dated. Highlight is the breezy title track, eminently suited to radio play. The other tracks are reminiscent of early Genesis, though they still project an original sound. CC
Mary Briefcase
Jupiter: By Ridge (Old Age Records)

The first record from Auckland's outlet for very alternative music, Old Age Records. They profess a desire to represent 'different' music that major record companies usually shun. Nigelp and Briefcase fit the bill. Using Jupiter as their concept they have attempted to represent alien landscapes with three tracks of varying electronic features. Leisurely and atmospheric. A bit old hat but valiant and worth the effort. (6.75 from PO Box 6199, Auckland 1.) Mary Briefcase
Whisper of the Sheba Dawn (Old Age Records)

The second album from Mary Briefcase on Old Age Records, the Auckland outlet for 'free and spontaneous' music. *Whisper of the Sheba Dawn*, despite the poetic pretension of the title, is a step forward from the meanderings of *Jupiter By Ridge*. The tracks are more structured, shorter and more menacing. A far cry from innovation or Cabaret Voltaire but progress in evidence. GK

Butterfly's 'In-a-Gadda-va-Vida': 'It was particularly noteworthy for the admirably precise imitation of a mad Indian elephant being tortured to death by drunk bwana.'
He will be missed.
George Kay

'Rod Stewart'
Lester Bangs (Sidgwick & Jackson)
After subverting the glossy fan-bio format with his *Blondie* volume, Lester Bangs went on to write a similar switchblade job on Rod Stewart. It's worth checking out even if - no, especially if - you can't stomach the strutting turkey-top. Bangs hated Stewart solo but loved the Faces. The sober and sensible co-authorship of Paul Nelson provides a healthy balance to Bangs' rabid ravings. (Bangs' recent death has lost us an extremely perceptive and funny critic. His jaundiced perspective on the rock scene will be sorely missed.) PT

The Book Of Rock Lists
Dave Marsh and Kevin Stein (Rolling Stone Press)
This book will drive you mad, kill your social life and lose you all your friends, as you drive everyone crazy with the appalling amount of musical trivia gathered here. Do you really want to know the wimpiest performers of all time, the 10 worst rock critics, the artists who've won the most Grammys, the most beautiful record labels, etc, etc? Having bored people stiff with this sort of stuff for years, I naturally love it. Did you know that John Lennon once flew to Hong Kong wearing pyjamas? DC

The Beatles Downunder
Glen A. Baker (Wild & Woolley, 16 Darghan St, Glebe, NSW 2037)
Now that the Beatles' story has been largely done to death in general terms, more specific and specialised volumes are appearing. The most recent is Oz rock historian Glen A. Baker's *The Beatles Downunder*, which deals exclusively with the Australian and New Zealand tour in 1964. This book is concise, detailed and fascinating. There's a chapter about New Zealand (with the help of Phil Gifford) and heaps of titbits and gossip, including a piece about the Beatles' admitted sexual excesses on tour. One of the best Australasian rock books to date. SG

FILM

Rich and Famous
Director: George Cukor
Veteran Cukor has made a welcome return to the screen with an elegant and witty piece of entertainment that must be one of the films of this year, a snappily updated version of the John Van Druten play *Old Acquaintance* and strong performances from Jacqueline Bisset and Candice Bergen in the roles originally played by Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins.

Rich and Famous follows the ups and downs of two women's friendship from college days in 1959 through to 1981 when both have achieved the status of the movie's title. Of the two, Bergen's talent for penning trash novels scores her the greater financial success, her costumes forming a crescendo of bad taste from scene to scene until, swathed in mink, she takes her last taxi ride from New York to Connecticut. Bisset, as the more literary lady has most of the film's serious moments as she comes to terms with her inner conflicts as an artist and as a woman.

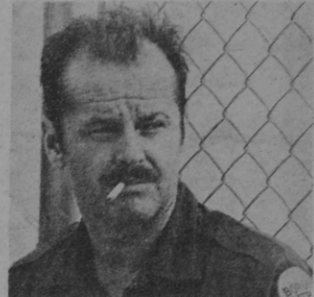
There are some beautifully timed scenes which remind one of how Cukor was responsible for that classy comedy of the thirties, *The Women*, and a hilarious scene of in-flight carnal pleasures - on a TWA jet shows how Cukor can take advantage of the more liberal climate of today without sacrificing any of his eminently civilised wit.
Star Struck

Director: Gillian Armstrong
Star Struck certainly offers no competition to *Rocky Horror Picture Show* or *Phantom of the Paradise* in the rock musical stakes. Given a fairly handsome budget, this Aussie update of 1930s melodramatic musical plot 43B (talented youngsters use their musical success to save the oldies from villainous creditors) is a sorry follow-up to the director's successful *My Brilliant Career*.

There are a few oases in this overly frenetic piece of Sydney-side razzamatazz - Armstrong's keen eye for visual details, a

diverting Busby Berkeley spoof starring a dozen or so hunky life-guards and amusing, cheeky performances by Jo Kennedy and Ross O'Donovan - but flaccid pacing, untidy scripting, flat characters, leaden choreography and uninspired songs take their toll somewhat after 113 minutes.
Blood Beach

Director: Jeffrey Bloom
A nasty thing comes up out of the sand and chomps at you where and when you least expect it. Well, at least it's a change from your average psychopath shocker. The film pulls its punches a little in the gore and grot department and, in spite of some effective atmosphere, the plot is not anywhere near cogent enough, even on horrorlick terms.



Jack Nicholson, 'The Border'

FORTHCOMING FILMS

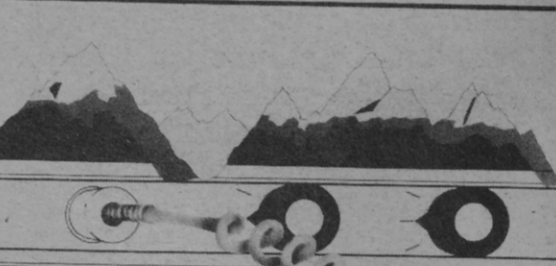
The Border... Jack Nicholson is a US border patrol guard in El Paso Texas who falls in love with young Mexican woman, while his marriage falls apart. Sound-track includes Ry Cooder and John Hiatt. June 18.

Dance Craze... British Ska movie out in June. Includes the Specials, Madness, the Beat (filmed in action on US tour), Selector, Bad Manners, and the Bodysnatchers. Follows the release of the *Dance Craze* album a year ago.

Southern Comfort... Louisiana weekend soldiers hit Texas swamp for training, and become involved in real guerilla warfare with the local Cajun hunters. Directed by Walter Hill (*Warriors*, *Long Riders*). Music by Ry Cooder. June 18.

Body Heat... William Hurt and Kathleen Turner in lead roles. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (screenplay for *Raiders of the* CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

MEN AT WORK



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The Book of Rock Lists

OFF THE RECORD

Last month, Lester Bangs aged 33, one time rock n'roll writer for *Village Voice*, *Rolling Stone* and particularly *Creem*, died of unknown causes in New York.
Bangs ranked as the most vital and influential rock scribe of the 70s. His energetic, irreverent and perceptive cut and thrusts sliced through the complacency of the first half of last decade in an effort to show that rock n'roll was still alive in the form of Lou Reed, Iggy, New York Dolls, Blue Oyster Cult and the other gonzo who touched on Bangs' definition of rock n'roll.
He liked angry music, hated blandness and his writing was blessed with craziness. Try this inspired description of Iron

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