

Out The Record

John Cooper Clarke
Ten Years in an Open Necked
Shirt (Arena)
Directory 79 (Omnibus)

Ten Years in an Open Necked
Shirt opens with the title piece, a
bit of mutant bop prose that
purports to be John Cooper
Clarke's life story. The pipe-
cleaner poet, we are told, was
born Lenny Siberia and raised by
a couple of alsatian dogs named
Sheba and Rex ...

There follow 50 poems, tracing
the withered wordsmith's career.
All the classics are here -
'Chickentown', 'Valley of the Lost
Women' etc., but not necessarily
in their original versions. The slim
sonneteer has taken the oppor-
tunity to update and improve his
words since they were initially
committed to vinyl. Not that those
words are really complete in
printed form. These poems were
made to be written and, although
key phrases still have impact in
print, the way to get the best out
of the poems is to mentally read
them with strange Manchester
accent. It works, really. But it's
Steve Maguire's illustrations that
make the book. Sometimes they're

funny and sometimes they're
bloody unnerving.

Directory 79 is an older book
and features good ol' punk
graphix. It's in the style of a
severely defaced phone book (in
which all the names are Cooper or
Clarke, see?) and, although inter-
esting, is now somewhat outdated
by Ten Years, which contains
most of its poems and a lot more
besides.

But to really appreciate either
book you'll need to have heard the
recorded rhymes at least once. Or,
better still, see the man live - you
have the opportunity this month.
Russell Brown

Reggae Discography
Herman Moter
(Minotaurus Projekt)

This exhaustive listing produced
in Germany and covering over 260
pages, is not the sort of thing
you'd sit down with for a quiet
afternoon's reading. But as a refer-
ence work it is invaluable. It lists,
as accurately as humanly possible,
all the reggae albums issued up to
roughly the beginning of this year.
Releases are given in chronological
order, stating catalogue numbers
as well as labels and countries of
origins. There's also a useful
dictionary of terms. Over three
thousand albums are listed. An
expensive (\$18.95) paperback but
very worthwhile.

Duncan Campbell

Kreshendo Metal Magazine

From the land where guitar is
King comes the militantly metallic
mag Kreshendo.

This free monthly seems to be
gaining momentum with each
issue. Number Three has 16 pages,
mainly occupied with album
reviews by the mag's two princi-
pals, a couple of characters rejoic-
ing under the names 'The Hermit'
and 'The Raver'. There's also an
unhappy look at the Battle of the
Bands final, a live review of Rush
in London, a page of metal news,
readers' faves, a Motorhead com-
petition (pretty easy), a crossword
and even a letter from Karyn
Hay(!).

It's really for devoted head-
bangers only but it's pretty well
put together and should satisfy
some of the calls for More Metal
in the Media. Write to them at PO
Box 38-301, Howick, Auckland.

REGGAE IMPORTS

Reggae fans know full well the
frustrations and expense associ-
ated with obtaining the music they
want to hear. Import supplies
fluctuate, and it's the quickest and
most observant who get the
goodies when they arrive. The
following is a sampling of a recent
line of imports from the EMI
Shop.

Clint Eastwood and General Saint
Stop That Train (Greensleeves)
From Britain's premier label

comes the second LP from the
highly popular toasting duo which
produced Two Bad DJ, a classic
example of the genre. This one
appears comparatively lightweight
at first, till the chilling power of
'Nuclear Crisis' hits you. Every-
thing is upful on 'Rock With Me',
a skank for kids, while the terrible
two are both witty and articulate
on 'Shame and Scandal' and 'True
Vegetarian'. Mash it!

Singers and Players
Staggering Heights (On-U Sound)

The third album from a loose
collection of musicians assembled
by radical producer Adrian Sher-
wood. Participants this time
include Mikey Dread, Prince Far
I, Bim Sherman, Congo Ashanti
Roy and George Oban. The pace
and content are both militant,
with Far I and Mikey in especially
tough form. Mighty riddims and
much well dread talent on display.

Massive Dread

It's Massive (Upfront)

Dennis James, aka Massive
Dread, produced one of last year's
best surprises with Strictly Bubb-
ling and the year's best toast with
'Vamps On The Corner'. I don't
know whether this album was the
predecessor or the successor. I
hope it's the former, since the
vocal performance here is pathetic
by comparison. At times, James is
just plain off-key, although his
pitch improves on the second side.
The album is rescued by the lazy
skank of 'Nice Dem Up' and 'No

Sell You Body'.

Prince Lincoln Thompson
and the Royal Rasses
Ride With The Rasses (God Sent)

Another JA group which has
made it in Britain, the Rasses have
delivered consistently fine material
for nigh on 10 years. Their
exposure to Britain has given them
a more urbane sound, but this has
done no harm. Thompson's pure
falsetto rides happily on the more
sophisticated harmonies and the
slightly-funked riddim. His song-
writing has never been better, and
the title track could turn into a
new Rasta anthem.

Tony Benjamin
and the Sane Inmates
African Rebel (Ariwa)

Tony Benjamin is leader singer
with the Reggae Regulars, a band
which has made a lot of headway
in Britain recently. His first solo
outing is a lush, heady mixture of
lovers and righteous rockings. Not
a dud track here and the only
better singing I've heard this year
is from the unmatched Michael
Prophet on his album Love Is An
Earthly Thing.

Keith Hudson
The Black Morphologist
of Reggae (Keja)

A PhD in reggae? I guess if any-
one deserves it, it's Keith Hudson.
From producer to performer, the
man has been a pioneering spirit
and has been responsible for at
least two standards, 'Civilisation'
and 'I Broke The Comb'. As a

researcher of roots, Hudson is not
afraid to experiment. The ap-
proach is primitive in the extreme,
deliberately traditional. Having
recorded one of the earliest reggae
disco singles, he's now returning
to something simpler. The album
is a series of lengthy jams, fol-
lowed by their dub versions. Once
you get used to the rough n' ready
approach, it's dynamic stuff.

Various Artists

Collectors Shots (Revue)

Ten ace singles from the past
couple of years, from the likes of
Tony Tuff, Cornell Campbell,
Errol Walker and Sugar Minott.
The best value disc in a long time
- at least 20 minutes of solid
scrubbing per side. Just stick on Fil
Callender's dreamy 'Rub A Dub
Time' and fall in love with some-
one.

More, more ...
Duncan Campbell

Rip It Up No 75

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Postal Address PO Box 5689,
Auckland 1.
Advertising Enquiries 790-653
Rip It Up is typeset by Artspec
Typesetting Systems, printed by
Lucas Print. Photoprints by Prints
Graphic Art Studio.



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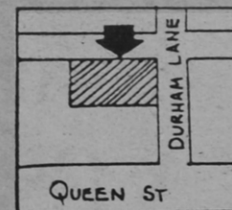
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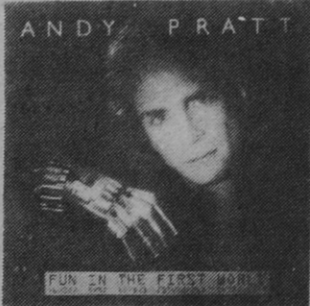
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