

WRITERS' FAVES

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CHRIS KNOX

IRISH RECORD OF THE YEAR: If I Die, I Die Virgin Prunes.

SUPERGROUP OF THE YEAR: Shriekback.

FLIPSIDE OF THE YEAR: 'Ludd Gang' the Fall.

EX VELVET UNDERGROUND RECORD OF THE YEAR: *Legendary Hearts* Lou Reed.

EX VELVET UNDERGROUND RECORD OF LAST YEAR: *Music for a New Society* John Cale.

EMOTIONAL EVENT OF THE YEAR: John Cale at the Gluepot.

DELIGHTFULLY EXTREME DEBUT OF THE YEAR: Stridulators at the Gluepot.

FLYING NUN RECORDS OF THE YEAR (Sorry, gotta be honest): 'Flesh' Children's Hour, 'Yellow Read Aloud' Marie and the Atom.

DISGUSTING, ABSURD FARCE OF THE YEAR: The Music Awards.

MARK PHILLIPS

ALBUMS

Work for Love, Ministry: For restoring some faith in modern white America.

Al Green's Greatest Hits Vol 1 & 2: For converting me to his way of thinking.

The Luxury Gap, Heaven 17: For crossing all dominions (my Mum bought it).

Punch the Clock, Elvis Costello: Amazing what a beard and some new glasses will do for your song-writing.

Sin of Pride, the Undertones: Who had to break up to get that big break (a UK hit single).

SINGLES

- 'Get the Balance Right', Depeche Mode.
- 'King of Soul', James Brown.
- 'Just Got Lucky', JoBoxers.
- 'Those Days', Car Crash Set.
- 'Long Hot Summer', Style Council.

CHOCOLATE BARS

1. Mars
2. Bounty
3. Rationpack
4. Luxury Flake
5. Chocolate Macaroons (whole packets)

(Just in case you want to know what to get me for Xmas)

DAVID TAYLOR

ALBUMS

Sin of Pride, the Undertones: No falls, the final glory.

Juju Music, King Sunny Ade: The apolitical, sunny face of African music.

Punch the Clock, Elvis Costello: No liberties taken, you can always trust Costello.

Labour of Love, UB40: A welcome return to form. Pass the Riunite Lambrusco.

The Crackdown, Cabaret

Voltaire: Why kill time when you can kill yourself?

INTERNATIONAL SINGLES

'Little Red Corvette', Prince: Beats hell out of Saturday night in the Zephyr.

'Temptation', New Order: Their finest shot, 'Temptation' puts an end to Blue Mondays.

'Stop That Train', Clint Eastwood and General Saint: Two bad DJ remake Marley - perfection plus.

'Fields of Fire' Big Country: Charismatic anthem, I'm taking the high road to Scotland.

'Long Hot Summer', Style Council: Wrinkle-free summer music.

NZ SONGS

1. 'Death and the Maiden', Verlaines
2. 'Stars in My Eyes', Screaming Meemees
3. 'Banana Republic', Pelicans
4. 'Amnesia', Sneaky Feelings
5. 'Getting Older', the Clean

(Oddities version, somehow more relevant than the 45).

PETER THOMSON

ALBUMS

Punch the Clock, Elvis Costello: The tension between fierce originality and reverence towards tradition results in near perfection.

Wild Things Run Fast, Joni Mitchell: Possibly her best for 10 years and I'm still hopelessly in love.

What is Beat? the Beat: Best of the 'Best Of's' and a free dub album as a bonus.



Once Bitten, Annabel Lamb: Most promising debut. Mature in both aim and execution.

Renee Live, Renee Geyer: Best live album. Great soul singer, great material, excellent band, great recording.

VIDEO CLIPS

'It's Raining Men', Weather Girls: Huge hit, high camp, helpless hilarity.

'Beat It', Michael Jackson: Yeah, I know, it's *West Side Story* revisited but Michael's still the best mover on TV.

'1999', Prince: The second best

mover. 'Corvette's' probably got snappier stepping but this wins out for the pouting and primping.

'Come Dancing' the Kinks: Superb enhancement of song-lyric storyline as Davies (in dual roles) evokes his beloved English heritage.

'Gimme All Your Loving', ZZ Top: The band looks eccentric, the girls look sexy and the car's a classic.

S. J. TOWNSHEND

ALBUMS

Sin of Pride, Undertones: Sweet, very soulful from the late, lamented Irishmen.

Pigs on Purpose, Nightingales: Absolutely stupid stuff but typically coarse and cutting.

Fall in a Hole, the Fall: I'd sell my sister down the river to see the Fall live again.

Before Hollywood, the Go-Betweens: Delicate, wistful, complex and fine-spun.

Miami, the Gun Club: Somewhat watered-down, very much superior to 'Death Party'.

DAVID PERKINS

ALBUMS

Inarticulate Speech of the Heart, Van Morrison: This musician's finest since *Astral Weeks*.

Live, Moving Hearts: Irish band give traditional music new guise.

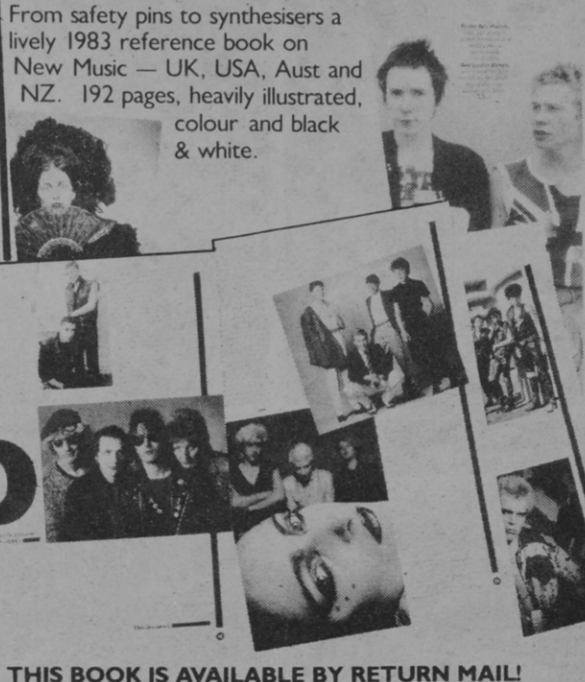
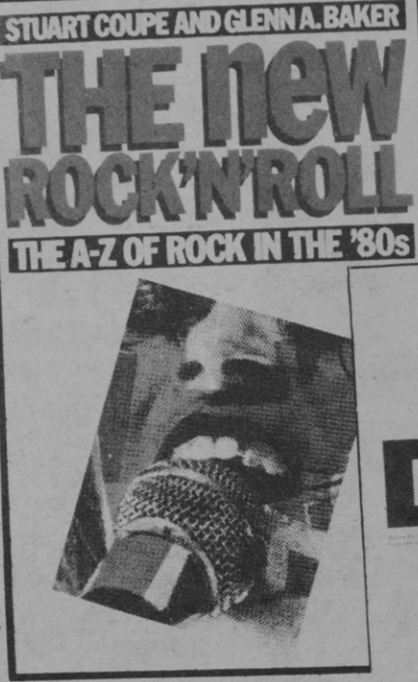
A Child's Adventure, Marianne Faithfull: Proves *Broken English* was no fluke.

Trans, Neil Young: Why can't people do something different?

Infidel, Bob Dylan: Less dogma on this superbly crafted return to form.

Hand of Kindness, Richard Thompson: He puts the grunt back in folk rock.

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