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RECORDS

the Spoonful's "Do You Believe in Magic?" (I'd like to hear Dion tackle "Summer in the City"). The other songs are Dion's compositions, written with members of his seamless Streetheart Band (kudos to Lee Foy for his heartbreak saxophone). The bitter-sweet "(I Used to be a) Brooklyn Dodger" says it all -

I Used to be a Brooklyn Dodger But I ain't a hitter anymore You know I had a reputation

I loved to hear the home crowd roar I'm happy to say The Wanderer is well and

Ken Williams

Santana **Inner Secrets**

CBS

An old Zombies song recently proved Santana's first top 20 single in five years so it's understandable that more gems of yesteryear should be sought for repolishing. Here material from the Four Tops, Classics IV, Traffic and Buddy Holly is given that smooth, straightforward treatment, continuing the band's aim at

mass accessibility.

Devadip's guitar is less dominant now. Those sustained single-note lines are still present but often it is Greg Walker's singing which characterizes the sound. (His similarity to Steve Winwood is emphasized by the inclusion of two numbers Winwood has recorded.)

Production is no longer under Santana's control but in the veteran hands of Lambert & Potter, a team with a reputation for making jaded or specialist acts sound commercial. The duo also contributes half the song-writing.
It seems the leader (and only original

member) has submerged his role in the interests of popular success.

Yet it would be simplistic to regard Inner Secrets as a sell-out. The possibility of spiritual interplay with Mahavishnu no longer exists and the Caravanserai has long since passed by. Santana has become a soulful, somewhat laidback band seeking hits. On the strength of the performances here it deserves them.

Peter Thomson

Peter Tosh **Bush Doctor**

Rolling Stones Records

Bush Doctor is Peter Tosh's third album since his departure from the Wailers and his first for Rolling Stones Records.

For the Stones it's a particularly good omen, as Bush Doctor is thoroughly excellent and represents their label's first major acquisition.

Peter Tosh is quite outrageous, Rasta sophisticated, literate and a true roots musician and songwriter. He now has to be the leading contender for the heavyweight crown of Bob Mar-

Bush Doctor, produced by Robbie Shakespeare and Jagger/Richards as the Glimmer Twins, features Keith's guitar on several cuts and Jagger on vocals for the single "Don't Look Back". (Tosh supported the Stones on their recent American tour as the cover, 'Tosh is such a spunk girls', testifies).

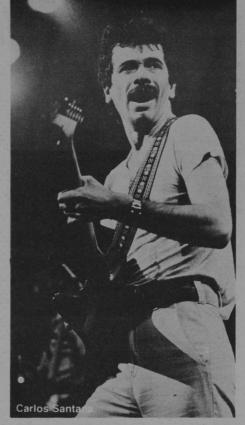
To cut it short, Bush Doctor creates just the right ambience - Rolling Stones association, Tosh in great voice, some of the best musicians currently playing, great songs - an unreserved

Now if only the Stones will pick up Culture and Winston Rodney. Rasta fari! Roger Jarrett

Rod Stewart Blondes Have More Fun

Warner Bros

It's getting hard to remember but there was a time when Rod Stewart was an important songwriter. But more and more Stewart today has defined his territory and refuses to move



outside. The titles of most of the songs here make his stance clear — combination stud and hooker on "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy", "Attractive Female Wanted" and "Dirty Weekend" and heart-broken fool on "Ain't Love a Bitch", "Is That the Thanks I Get" and "The Best Days of

Yet while his taste for innovation may have disappeared, Stewarts melodic gifts have not deserted him. Many of the most lightweight songs here still ride along on attractive melodies. And there are successes: the venomous, Dylanesque "Is That the Thanks I Get", the rocking "Blondes Have More Fun" and the flashes of humour on "Attractive Female Wanted" where Rod confesses "I may not be Warren Beatty or Muhammed Ali" and that "All of my family think I'm gay'

But there are unforgiveable lapses too. A totally hamfisted version of the Four Tops' "Standing in the Shadows of Love" and the rowdy, plodding rock'n'roll of "Dirty Weekend" expose the deficiencies of Stewart's band.

In the end though it's inevitable that the constant publicity given to Stewart as the carousing playboy of the Western world (publicity which Stewart exploits in his songs and on the cover of this album) colours one's reaction to Blondes Have More Fun. But to me, what once was affecting now seems affected, and what once was natural seems to have developed into a pose. Alastair Dougal



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