

**The Kane Gang Closest Thing To Heaven 12" (London)**

For me the Kane Gang are one of the most exciting white bands to emerge in the last 12 months. Hailing from the North of England, they have displayed a true feel for energy and soul without losing their individuality or resorting to publicity mongering. Their cover of the Staple Singers' 'Respect Yourself' is pure dynamite, as is 'Small Town Creed', a single in its own right, which luckily for us appears on the flip of 'Closest Thing To Heaven'. So what about the A-side, I hear you say? Well, it's a smooth and distinguished radio ballad with more than a hint of the Stevie Wonders — love it.

**The Associates**  
**Waiting For The Loveboat 12"**  
Billy Mackenzie has always deserved admiration and most of the time he's managed to get it. Produced by Martin Rushent, 'Loveboat' is an ambitious piece and in its 7" form is probably pure delight. Stretched to more than eight minutes on the 12" it gets lost and meanders into screeching guitars and vocal wails. Exquisite sleeve makes it almost worthwhile, except the printers ruined it.



**Feelabeelia**

**Feel It 12" (Interdisc)**

Feelabeelia are another English outfit with American leanings. This 12" has Quincy Jones' name plastered all over it, but don't be fooled, he actually had nothing to do with it. Tight and tuneful, it features some wonderful harmonica and a strong dancefloor resonance. Perfect for university FM stations.

**Sylvester**

**Rock the Box (Chrysalis)**

No one makes disco records like flabby faggots and Sylvester is the King, sorry, Queen of them all. Punchy and even more infectious than Aids, this is the disco record of the last six months. Fantastic.

**Lloyd Cole and the Commotions**  
**Forest Fire 12" (Polydor)**

Much as I love this track I can't help hearing Springsteen's 'Fire' all the way through it. Smouldering hunk (of) Cole burns his way through one of the most likeable radio songs of the year, endearing himself to just about everybody. Of particular interest is his version of Tom Verlaine's 'Glory' on the other side, an insight into how young Lloyd developed that distinctive vocal style.

**Shriekback**

**Mercy Dash (Arista)**

Shriekback have made two less than startling albums and a couple of great singles. 'Mercy Dash' continues the tradition. Clever and rhythmic, it thumps along almost too fast, leaving a pleasant taste without much afterburn.

**Bronski Beat**

**It Ain't Necessarily So 12" (London)**

I always knew George and Ira Gershwin would make it one day. All it takes is a little assistance from some oh-so-persecuted boys with no hair. I just hope they don't pick on Cole Porter next. I wonder if Jimmy will have his legs amputated in the video — that always

gets 'em going.  
**Ian McCulloch**  
**September Song (WEA)**

Mr Bunnyperson himself unfolds his alter ego in the form of this old streetside cafe ditty. More than a shock, this is liable to put ardent Bunnymen fans off the new velvetine Mac for life. Buy it for your mum or maybe even your granny. 'Cockles and Mussels' on the other side is fantastic, they don't write 'em like that anymore, sheer unadulterated codswallop.

**Hunters and Collectors**

**Throw Your Arms Around Me (White Label)**

Now hold on a second — we all know how good the Go-Betweens are and we all know the qualities of Hunters and Collectors. Why then are the Melbourne doctors and lawyers trying to pretend to be influenced by cattle, cane and country?

**Brothers Johnson**

**You Keep Me Coming Back (A&M)**

Smooth as silk, the Brothers Johnson wash over your whole body. Expertly produced by Mr Groove, Leon Sylvers III, this could almost be mistaken for the Whispers.

**Mark Phillips**

# THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

"Listen 'Arry," said the Ed. "Will you stop 'anging around the office on deadline? Look, 'ere's five bucks — 'ave a pie and a few pints and write your bloody column."

Oh, all right Guv, but what shall I write about?

"You'll think of something."

So 'ere I sit, looking at wally businessmen walk past and racking this diseased brain trying to remember what 'appened this month. Oh yeah, that's right — that bloke Ratman 'ad 'is birthday party up at Zanzibar, the Tuesday night before Waitangi Day.

Getting there 'bout 10 and hassling my way past the bouncers without an invite wasn't too 'ard. But trying to get past this really worried looking geezer wearing a dinner suit and sloshing down Moet without paying my five bucks was a pretty tough job. Could this be Ratman 'imself?

'Appy birthday Ratman — 'ere, smoke this.

"Ta, I need it."

By this stage Zanzibar was pretty packed and bloody hot. Ah, Steinies are only \$2 for the occasion — Christ, this bloke must 'ave influence. A deal like that is not to be sneezed at, so I got into it.

Russell Brown and Paul Rose 'ad just finished the psychedelic slot on the turntables and I Jah Pattiman was blaring out the Jah music. By about 10.30 the crowd 'ad swelled to about 400. There were all sorts — from 'airdressers to 'oons, DJs and BJ models to musicians, somebodies and nobodies, promoters and posers. All walks

of life — but no thugs, junkies or wallies. Oh dear, 'ow sad, never mind.

The Car Crash Set took the stage for a bloody good set from what I can remember.

After an hour in that room with 400 sweating, smoking (whatever), pissed people, I 'eaded out for a breather.

Back inside Kerry Buchanan was spinning the discs and the dancefloor was full with people waiting to see who most of them 'adn't before — the Chills.

They came on about midnight and 'ad a few surprises — like this chap called Ken singing 'Kaleidoscope World'. 'Twas good. After a lengthy dedication to Ratman they 'ad to leave the stage for a short break because the place was getting 'otter than a fox'ole in Cambodia.

Fifteen minutes later and with a few coldies inside them, back they came for another 'our. Back to the bar after that and, my God, the place 'as run dry! Not a single fucking beer left in the place! Shaun Pettigrew is spinning some bloody good vinyl and the manager 'as gone to find some more grog. Ahhh ... what a lovely sight — the manager coming up the stairs with 10 dozen. About 15 minutes' supply for this crowd — and sure enough that's all it lasted.

89FM's Golden 'Oon Andrew Soak was now filling the DJ slot and I figured it was about time I 'eaded off to H Block.

"See you next year," said Ratman, with 'is eyes in 'is boots.

Yeah — seeya mate. 'ARRY RATBAG

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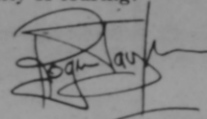


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- 38 Howard Devoto, Tim Finn interviews
- 39 XTC, Lip Service, Motels
- 40 Martha Davis, David Byrne, Dave McCartney, Doors, Bruce Springsteen, Hammond Gamble
- 41 Coup D'Etat, Flowers (Icehouse), John Lennon, Clash, Elton John
- 42 Clash interview, Cold Chisel, INXS, Tigers, Jo Jo Zep, Borich/Tilders
- 43 Bryan Ferry interview, Sweetwaters report, Flowers (Icehouse)
- 44 Adam Ant, Associates and Police interviews, Stevie Wonder
- 48 Cold Chisel, Blams, Wgtn Zone
- 49 Angels, Beat, Lemmy Motorhead, Desmond Dekker, Heavy Metal Guide
- 50 Swingers, U2, Psychedelic Furs, the Clean
- 51 Newmatics, Cramps, Stray Cats, UB40, Blind Date and Gordons interviews
- 52 Echo & Bunnymen, Danse Macabre, Penknife Gides, Mockers, Valentinos, Jimmy & Boys
- 54 Dave McCartney & Pink Flamingos, Go-Go's interview, Sunnyboys, INXS
- 56 Teardrop Explodes, D.D. Smash and Mick Jones Part 2, Neighbours, Richard Burgess
- 57 Clean, Pretenders, South Island Bands, Joan Armatrading, Mental As Anything, Chas Jankel
- 58 Blams, Teardrops, Hall & Oates, Bill Wyman, Kottke/Redbone interviews
- 59 Human League, Meni At Work, Chills, Tim Finn, Motels, Elvis Costello live, Furtive EP
- 61 Graham Brazier & Harry Lyon, Fall, Jim Carroll, Daggy & Dickheads, Hip Singles, Dropbears
- 62 Split Enz on Road Part 1, Fall's Mark E. Smith interviewed, Altered Images, Randy Crawford, This Sporting Life, Cold Chisel
- 63 Simple Minds, Jim Kerr interviewed, Split Enz Part 2, Renee Geyer, Nocturnal Projections, Willie Jayson Blues Band, Hunters & Collectors

- 65 Yazoo (Alison Moyet interview), Joe Cocker, Zoo (ex Pop Mechanix), Gurtz and Jo Jo Zep
- 66 Psychedelic Furs, Dexy's Midnight Runners (Kevin Rowland), Midnight Oil, Neil Finn and Jed Falgout interviews
- 67 Siouxsie & The Banshees, Toots, Church Sweetwaters, John Martyn, UB40, Psych Furs
- 68 Herbs, Culture Club, Bauhaus, Kiwi Animal, No Tag, Shardo O'Neill, Thompson Twins, ChCh special (Wastrels, Flying Nun, Bill Dieren etc)
- 69 Joni Mitchell, Dance Exponents, Who, Neighbours, Dire Straits, Talk Talk, Miltown Stowaways, Blind Comedy
- 70 Fun Boy 3, Birthday Party, Split Enz, Diehards, Spines, Marching Girls, Body Electric, Wgtn Punk
- 73 Wham, Dead Kennedys, Coconut Rough, Angels, Marginal Era, Grammar Boys, Fishschool, John Cale, Studio profile
- 74 Malcolm McLaren, Heaven 17, Joan Armatrading, Sharon O'Neill, Childrens Hour
- 75 Tim Finn, John Cale, Jonathan Richman, Hammond Gamble, Dick Driver
- 80 Police, Paul Young, Miltown feature, John Peel, Wastrels, Bryan Adams, Big Chill
- 81 Smiths, Mockers, Del Leppard, Violent Femmes, Miltown Stowaways, Chills, Doublehappys, Marvin Gaye, Alfred Hitchcock
- 82 Billy Idol, Pamela Stephenson, Four Tops, Temptations, Verlaines, Uriah Heep
- 83 Elvis Costello, Thompson Twins, Netherworld, Dancing Toys, Mockers, Paul Morley
- 84 Style Council (Paul Weller interview), Echo & The Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, Kiwi Animal, Sneaky Feelings, Depeche Mode
- 85 Mockers, Special AKA, Motorhead, Icehouse, Great Unwashed, Coconut Rough, Neil Finn, Fiox
- 86 U2, REM, OMD, Hoodoo Gurus, Dance Exponents, Jive Bombers, Alligator Blues, Stylistics
- 87 DD Smash, U2, Bill Dieren 1, Nick Cave, Stevie Ray Vaughan
- 88 Herbs, Talking Heads, Aztec Camera, Narcs, Car Crash Set, Axemen, SPK
- 89 Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Beatles, Deep Purple, ZZ Top, Twisted Sister, Aotea Riot, Eurogliders, Rip, Say Yes To Apes, Purple Girls
- 90 Lou Reed, Go-Betweens, Paul Hewson, Topp Twins



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Split Enz 2 page pic history, Cramps, Toy Love (pic, last gig photos, TL by Toy Love), Ramones (interview, pic, NZ faves), why Spelling Mistakes split, Zwines Family Tree (2 page history AK bands 1977-80, by Simon Grigg), Cure, XTC, Tom Petty, Life in the Fridge, ChCh band history.

New Wave dates (75-80), Last Weekend in Auckland (Newmatics, Pop Mx, Penknife Glides, Techtones), Kinks profile, mod Ray Columbus, David Bowie pic, UK Scene by Jeremy Templer, Newtones, Heavenly Bodies, Chris Knox pic.

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