

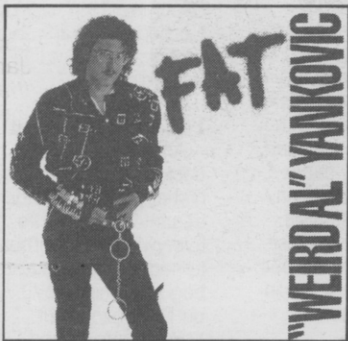
CHECK out THIS month's NEW RELEASES on ALBUM, CASSETTE and of course COMPACT DISC at your FAVOURITE RECORD STORE NOW!

SINGLES



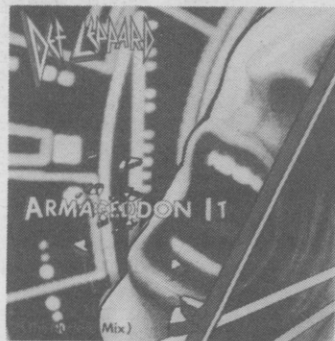
**THE FAT BOYS**  
'THE TWIST'

The recent U.K. and U.S. smash re-made, recovered and given a new 'twist' with the originator Chubby Checker himself here on 'stupid def vocals'. The boys look sure to reach new 'weights' in popularity with this follow up to 'Wipeout', and look out for their performance on the Nelson Mandela special weekend on TV2 August 20/21.



**"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC**  
'FAT'

And speaking of things 'fat' (but not necessarily 'bad'), check out the latest from the ever-so-talented Weird Al. A natural progression from 'Eat It' and a taste of things to come from Weird Al's new album 'Even Worse'.



**DEF LEPPARD**  
'ARMAGEDDON IT'

A special U.K. imported single from the phenomenal No 1 album 'Hysteria' that follows hot on the tails of 'Love Bites'. Joe Elliott (lead vocals) got so excited about the NZ success he asked for copies of the NZ charts to frame! Features a previously unreleased track 'Ring Of Fire'.



**SHARON O'NEILL**  
'WE'RE ONLY HUMAN'

The third single from Sharon's beautiful 'Danced In The Fire' album — like the previous single (the title track) a stunning A.O.R track highlighting Sharon's talent as a songwriter and performer. Sharon is currently touring Australia with The Good (Sharon) The Bad (Marc Hunter from Dragon) and The Angry (Anderson of course!).



**VOICE OF THE BEEHIVE**  
'DON'T CALL ME BABY'

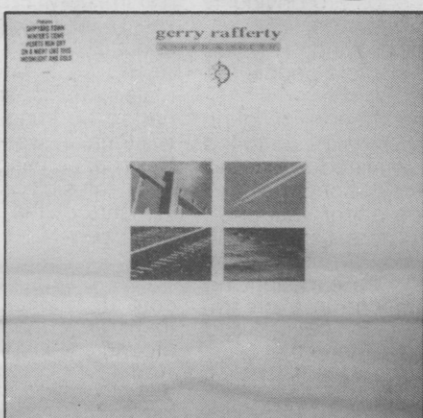
Just the cure for post-budget blues. Voice Of The Beehive — two girls — Tracey and Melissa from the U.S. of A. and three English chaps including Woody from Madness. Sounding suspiciously like The Bangles, and pulling huge crowds in the U.K., as well as pulling hits like 'Don't Call Me Baby' out of the bag (or should that be hive?). We're sure even Lindsay Perigo will like this Voice Of The Beehive!

ALBUMS



**THE STYLE COUNCIL**  
'CONFESSIONS OF A POP GROUP'

Critics and fans beware! Paul Weller bares all! An album that according to Record Mirror "demands the time and attention of the listener". 'Confessions Of A Pop Group' has a "classical" side (The Piano Paintings) and a traditional pop side (Confessions). It's a concept album man, and like the celebrated 'Cafe Bleu', a return to form. Its been called beautiful; it will 'move' you — but be warned — it is not pretty. A hero returns (married to D.C. Lee and with child) to the halcyon days of pop.



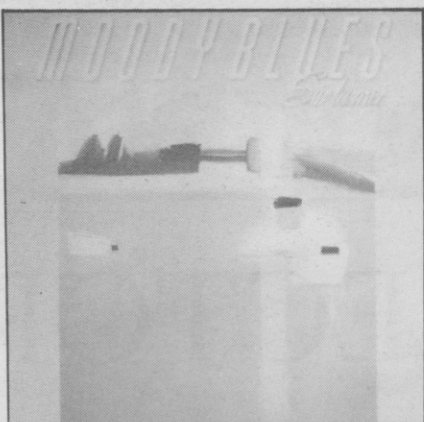
**GERRY RAFFERTY**  
'NORTH AND SOUTH'

A chequered career Mr Rafferty has had, from writing one of the biggest selling singles of all time in 'Baker Street' to remixing The Proclaimers 'Letter From America' (which then became a U.K. No 1 hit). Rafferty once formed a duo with Billy Connolly, and folk-rocked his way to stardom then obscurity. 'North And South' is his first album in six years, an album the Guardian called 'one of the most confident, clever and commercial releases of the year'.



**ELTON JOHN**  
'REG STRIKES BACK'

"For the next twenty years, I should be able to sing my ass off." So says Elton John, returning to form with this watershed album featuring the hit single "I Don't Wanna Go On With You Like That". 'Reg Strikes Back' is Elton striking back musically and emotionally with a change of image and style. According to Elton ... "reggie's making a comeback. I just hated that name for years ... but I'm kind of settled with it now. Reg is starting to creep in on Elton".



**THE MOODY BLUES**  
'SUR LA MER'

The 12th album from one of the worlds last remaining supergroups. In a career that has spanned 21 years and 50 million albums, these pioneers of the concept album consistently produce music that mixes romance, fantasy and melody. Features the hit 'I Know You're Out There Somewhere'.



**JOHN ILLSLEY**  
'GLASS'

The bass that launched 40 million albums steps out of his role as Dire Straits anchorman to produce this stunning second solo album. An album of powerful contrasts that will surely see CD buffs and fans of Dire Straits appreciate this remarkable album, the product of a year's work begun after the phenomenal 'Brothers In Arms' tour.



**HOTHOUSE FLOWERS**  
'PEOPLE'

The absolutely stunning debut album from this exceptional Irish band — already being talked about in global terms. The album features 'Don't Go', though every track is in some way special. Having already rocketed to pop stardom in Ireland and the U.K. (where 'People' debuted at No 2) — the band look set to spread their roots across the world. One of the records of the year, without a doubt.

SPOTLIGHT ON... HOTHOUSE FLOWERS

"We have no concern with being modern ... I like to think we embrace a lot of musical values and put them forward regardless of how they fit ... I'd like to think we are not 1988. We are now" — lead singer and piano player Liam O'Maonlai.

Hothouse Flowers are: Liam O'Maonlai on keyboards and lead vocals, Fiachna O'Braonain — lead guitar and vocals, Peter O'Toole — bass guitar, Jerry Fehily — drums, and Leo Barnes on saxophone.

The Irish band developed from the core of Liam and Fiachna, who met at a Gaelic school in Ireland, where they spent a great deal of time studying and playing traditional Irish instruments ... Liam

in fact went on to become an all Ireland champion with the bodhran ("bow-ravn"), whilst Fiachna has won several traditional instrument competitions.

Liam and Fiachna took to the streets of Dublin, playing what is best described as "Gaelic Blues", busking under the name of "The Incomparable Benzini Brothers", and pulling huge crowds.

The "Benzini Brothers" added Peter, Jerry, Leo and vocalist Maria Doyle (who has since left to pursue things maternal) to form the Hothouse Flowers.

Less than six months into their career, the band were getting rave

reviews from NME, Melody Maker, Sounds, Hot Press and of course Rolling Stone.

U2's Bono stamped his seal of approval on the band as well, by releasing a single on U2's own label Mother Records. It was airplay gained in England by this first indie release 'Love Don't Work This Way', that saw the majors fly to Ireland, thankfully London Records had been negotiating some two months previous.

In some 18 months Hothouse Flowers had become — apart from U2 — the biggest band in Ireland.

In October 1987 the band played their first London dates, these

gigs sold out in two days, leaving a trail of disappointed punters halfway round the block.

The pop production due of Clive Langer and Alan Winstanley (Madness, Elvis Costello, Dexy's among others) were employed to work on the debut album (entitled 'People') and single 'Don't Go'. And work on it they did, producing what Melody Maker called "an unexpected triumph". We leave the last word to Liam. "As a group we feel young ... we are very open ... The LP does not hold much back. I guess we are going for the big things."