

SINGLES

LL COOL J I'm That Type Of Guy (CBS) 7" & 12"

It's been about two years since the legend in leather declared his bad intentions, but apart from the evil 'Jack The Ripper' single, there's been silence. But he's back with *Walking With A Panther* and here's the first single. With a bass run humming and sailor chorus, LL tells us what sobs we are and how Goddamn good he is, of course. Most of the rap is about how LL takes your girlfriend away, you give her money, she buys Mr Cool a sweater and when you're not home, he drops his boxer shorts in your hamper.

The album got real critical flak, but I like it for its total lack of concern for anybody but LL Cool J. I like winners.

U2 All I Want Is You (Festival) 7" & 12"

There are moments when I like this band and this is one of them. The simple love ballad from *Rattle And Hum* with strings arranged by legend Van Dyke Parks. But it's the two songs on the flip side that are the real gems. A cover of 'Unchained Melody', done by Elvis and Gene Vincent, and da Bono gets real emotive. Next up is 'Everlasting Love' by the Love Affair from way back in the late 60s. This one is real good, following the original's structure, and the nifty strummed guitar really moves this one along.

JODY WATLEY Friends (MCA) 12"

Best thing about this is the remix by everyone's faves Hank Shocklee and Eric Sadler, and the rap from Eric B. Pop hip-hop sometimes just doesn't work, it can sound dumb (Fat Boys) but this is a good combination. Jody Watley always hits the right groove, and check out all the funky edits, especially the Wild dub.

TEN WEDGE Me And Mrs Jones (Regular) 7"

Another Philly revival. Simply Red covered Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, and this Australian trio attempt Billy Paul's homage to the other woman. There is just no way you are gonna beat the original, but I'm sure they realise that. It's just one of those songs that God created for his angels to sing, too good to re-create.

MARCV Let Them Stare (Elektra) 7"

It's taken me a while to tune into this guy, who some think is British yet he has the American big guns behind him. Produced by Arif Marfin in an almost clinically lazy style, which means the beat is almost hidden, making the vocals more important. Best soul single of the last few months.

SAM BROWN Can I Get A Witness (A&M) 7"

Certainly the worst soul revival attempt for ages. Joe Brown's daughter Sam does little justice to Marvin Gaye's best gospel soul shouter. Flip it over and hear her do the same to Patsy Cline. It's hard being a traditionalist.

THE GAP BAND I'm Gonna Git You Sucka (Arista) 12"

From the movie of the same name, which looks hot. But since we haven't even got *Tougher Than Leather* we ain't never going to see this bit of black culture. The back cover has this B-Boy in a sharp silk suit, just covered in gold, strangling the life out of him. Written by 70s soul funk supremo Norman Whitfield, and additional remix by Master Frankie Knuckles; a marriage made in disco heaven, since Whitfield is possibly the spiritual father of house. The Gap Band are always super funky ('Burn Rubber') and the retro production style on five mixes make this great.

PAUL KELLY & THE MESSENGERS Sweet Guy (Mushroom) 7"

The new albums' title is taken from one of Raymond Carver's short stories of working class frustrations called 'So Much Water So Close To Home'. This is the first single and it's good. Interesting that the song's point of view is from the woman and not the usual male vantage. I like the role reversal, and it has a good beat that verges on rock. I think I might take a listen to the album.

GLADYS KNIGHT Licence to Kill (MCA) 7"

Following a long line of Bond female title singers, like Shirley Basset, Nancy Sinatra and Sheena Easton, comes the full soul voice of Gladys Knight. It's wonderful stuff with Ms Knight belting it out with power and even Narada Michael Walden playing the Bond game by using the Bond orchestral theme in the background.

THE STONE ROSES Made Of Stone (Silvertone) 7"

The cover puts me off, the John Squire abstract expressionism thing. It makes me aware that the record inside is deadly serious, and I better like it because it's art, and therefore more meaningful.

Signs can be misleading, since it sounds and feels like a weak imitation of 60s folkie rock music. Maybe it's meant to be real deep. But then again, I have such simple tastes.

BRUCE COCKBURN If A Tree Falls (Liberation) 7"

Here's a little ray of sunshine in a dark, cynical world. Bruce's plea to save the planet, everything from nuclear war to the ozone layer, he has all the elements. I like the market manipulation.

ARTHUR BAKER & SHIRLEY LEWIS It's Your Time (A&M) 7"

Don't like the English accent as the rap intro, but once that goes, Arthur steps in with the beat and Ms Lewis starts to swing. Not bad, but in a way I expected more.

MALCOLM McLAREN Waltz Darling (Epic) 7"

Well, this lost me at first. I just can't figure out what McLaren and Bootsy Collins are trying to do, conceptually anyhow. It's become one of my most played records because of this hook of incomprehensibility. Apart from that, it has a great chorus, and a bit of Strauss-like violin. It's like Europop returning to its founder. McLaren pulls another fast one. KERRY BUCHANAN

Enzed Grooves

SISTERMATIC Million Dollar (Propeller 12")

It's good to see the Propeller label back and the guys from the Newmatics back on the scene. This meandering seven minute workout celebrates the stock market crash, in search of a tune, the dance feel only emerges with La Koi Wooten's concluding rap. But the fading chant says it all — "Shit goddam, the Newmatics can Jam."

DOUBLE J & TWICETHET She's A Mod / Mod Rap (Definitiv)

Some people think this record is a Ray Columbus instigated sham. But I think it's great fun and it's got the classic pop music ingredients — energy, good humour and a neat tune. It's essentially a revival, it ain't a rootsy rap statement but it's great to hear an old kiwi song on the radio. However, I wonder what Jeremy and Jerry's mothers were really listening to "back in '65."

RHYTHM CAGE The Phone is Ringing (Pagan)

A band who have shown considerable aptitude live and released an impressive EP, get a little Bowie-esque here, sort of 'Major Tom' but Bowie would never have given the song such a mundane title. I prefer the flip, the funky 'Hold on to Your Body'.

NETHERWORLD DANCING TOYS American Dream (CBS)

The guys return, getting serious here, no 'For Today' candy, somebody "pulls a gun" in the first verse. It's got that cop show, rhythm and blues, chevy, freeway feel to the verses with a "down home" "kiwi" chorus. A strange combination but I love the evocative "put ya foot down" verses.

TEX PISTOL & RIKKI MORRIS Come Back Louise (Pagan)

The hit-making duo, Tex and the younger Pistol are back with another tear jerker — it's not quite a Rikki Morris solo record but that must be just around the corner as Rikki wrote the song and he has the serious vocal chops. If they've got a Telethon style video again, this could be a monster.

JOHNNY SPECIFIC I Don't Know Why (EMI)

A nifty, commercial song from Auckland's Johnny Specific that seeks to rationalise the inevitability of Love — "Maybe it's the way that you brush your hair?" (If this was an advice column we

could help — the way you clean your teeth, maybe?) Anyway, both sides of this record have a pleasant "down home" feel that the nation might embrace if exposed to Johnny Specific.

THE SPIRALS (I Send My Love) To the Old Country (Spiral)

Lots of commercial hooks here and tried and proven licks that we've heard before (e.g. early Cure). The Spirals have certainly done their research but the elements have yet to gel into a distinctive style. However this is a debut single and vocalist Belinda Bradley shows some promise.

JENNY MORRIS Saved Me (WEA)

Expatriate NZ singer Jenny Morris has a classy new single co-written with INXS's Andrew Farriss who has produced her new album. 'Saved Me' is a clever, haunting groove that grows on you. MURRAY CAMMICK

FUNK & RAP

Ace producer **LA Reid** has married one of the artists he has produced, not Bobby Brown, but **Pebbles**.

De La Soul are being sued by former members of the 60s pop group the **Turtles** for their sampling of the 1969 record 'You Showed Me' and use as the basis for the track 'Transmitting Live from Mars'.

Prince has produced two tracks 'Love '89' and 'Yo Mister' on the new **Patti Labelle** album. Patti has also worked with **Full Force** and **Narada Michael Walden**.

The Stop the Violence Movement did not get through to the road crews of **Guy** and **New Edition**. The 32 year old production manager for Guy, Anthony Bee, was shot dead in a Pittsburgh Street July 9 after a fight between the bands' road crews. Both acts were in town for the Budweiser Superfest tour and have since been replaced on the tour by **Lever** and **Karyn White**.

Singer **Alisha Warren** has signed to RCA England. Her little sister happens to be **Mica Paris**.

There will be a new **Alexander O'Neal** LP before Xmas and a **Luther Vandross** 2LP *Best of* and a video compilation.

Berry Gordy who sold his label Motown to MCA has now sold the **Hitsville Studio** in Hollywood. In recent times the studio had been used by Motown's TV division, makers of the hit mini-series *Lonesome Dove*.

M A X

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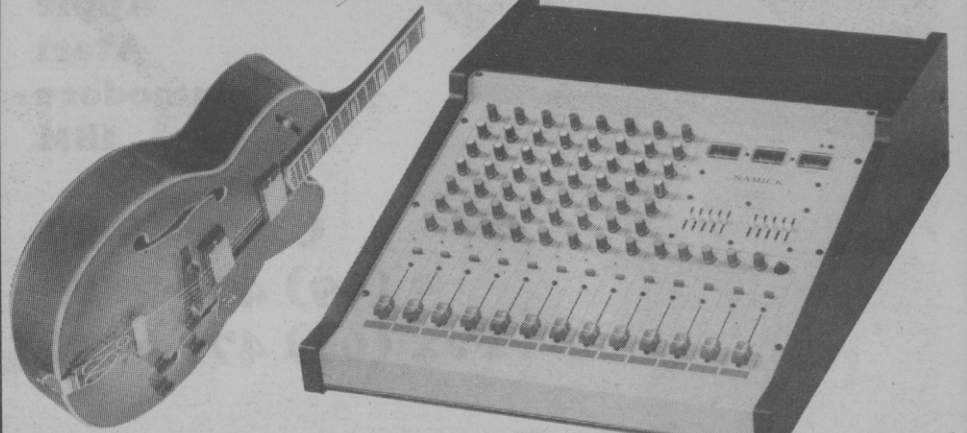
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