

# SINGLES

Reviewed by PETE SILVER

## HISTORICAL SINGLE OF THE WEEK

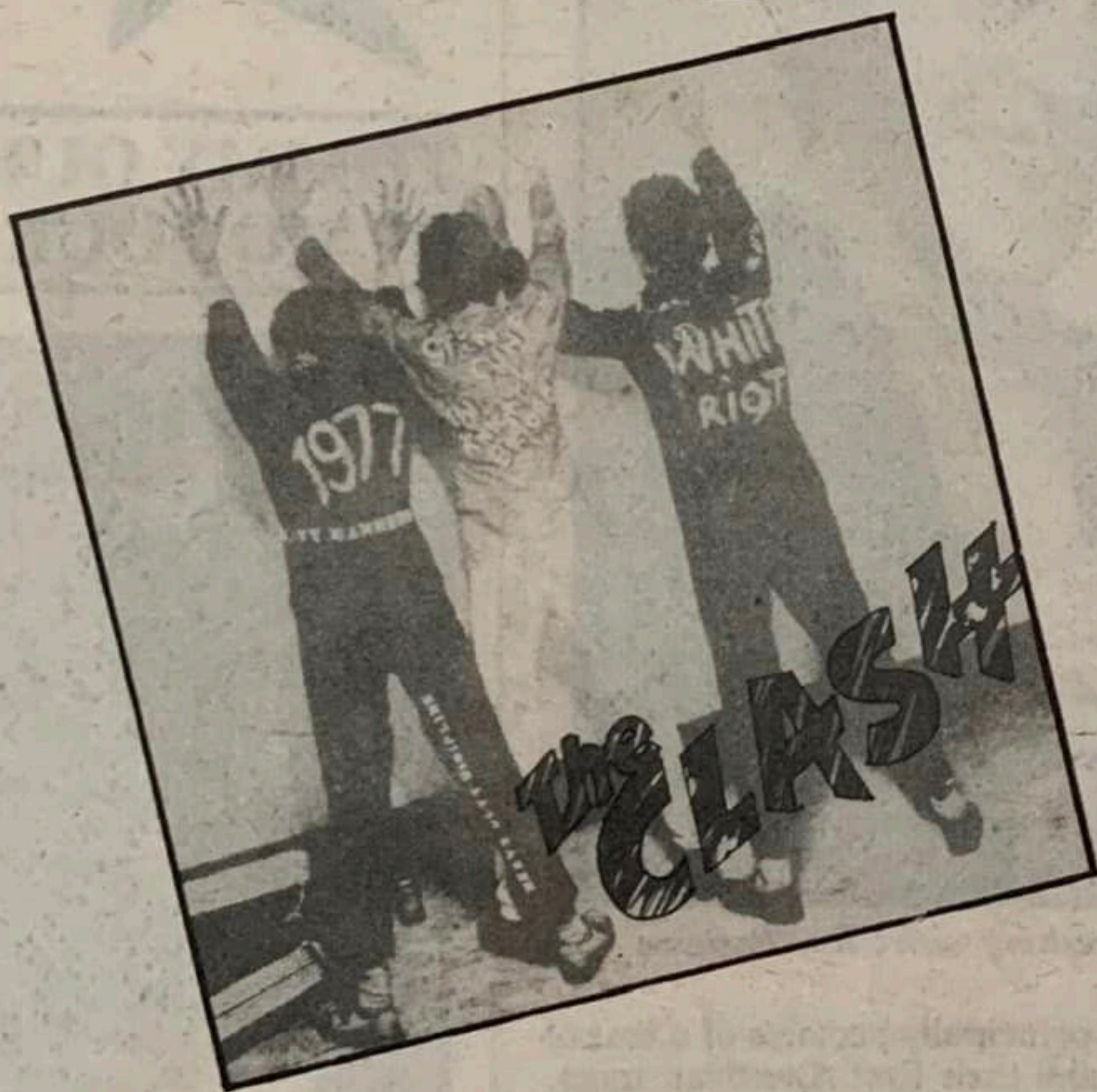
**RY COODER:** "He'll Have To Go" (Reprise). Until I heard the manic accordion solo on Johnnie Allen's cajun version of 'Promised Land', I'd considered that instrument barely fit for woodlice, let alone voles, but sod me if my tastes haven't been so far warped that I can slide out of my chair and waltz around the room to a song made famous by Jim Reeves. That's Ry Cooder for you — sublime. It's only fault is that mothers are likely to pop their heads round the door and say "That's nice, dear" and that's also why it stands a definite chance of putting some taste into the charts.

## TO WIN YOU HAVE TO COME FIRST (UNFORTUNATELY)

**FATS DOMINO:** 'I'm Walkin' (UA). The one Fifties rocker that hasn't yet died or, worse, let us down. It sounds as great as it did the first time I heard it (*not* when it was first issued), especially the succulent tenor solo by Lee Allen/Herb Hardesty — I can't remember which. Classic New Orleans in the groove bliss that makes it difficult to wait for his concert next week.

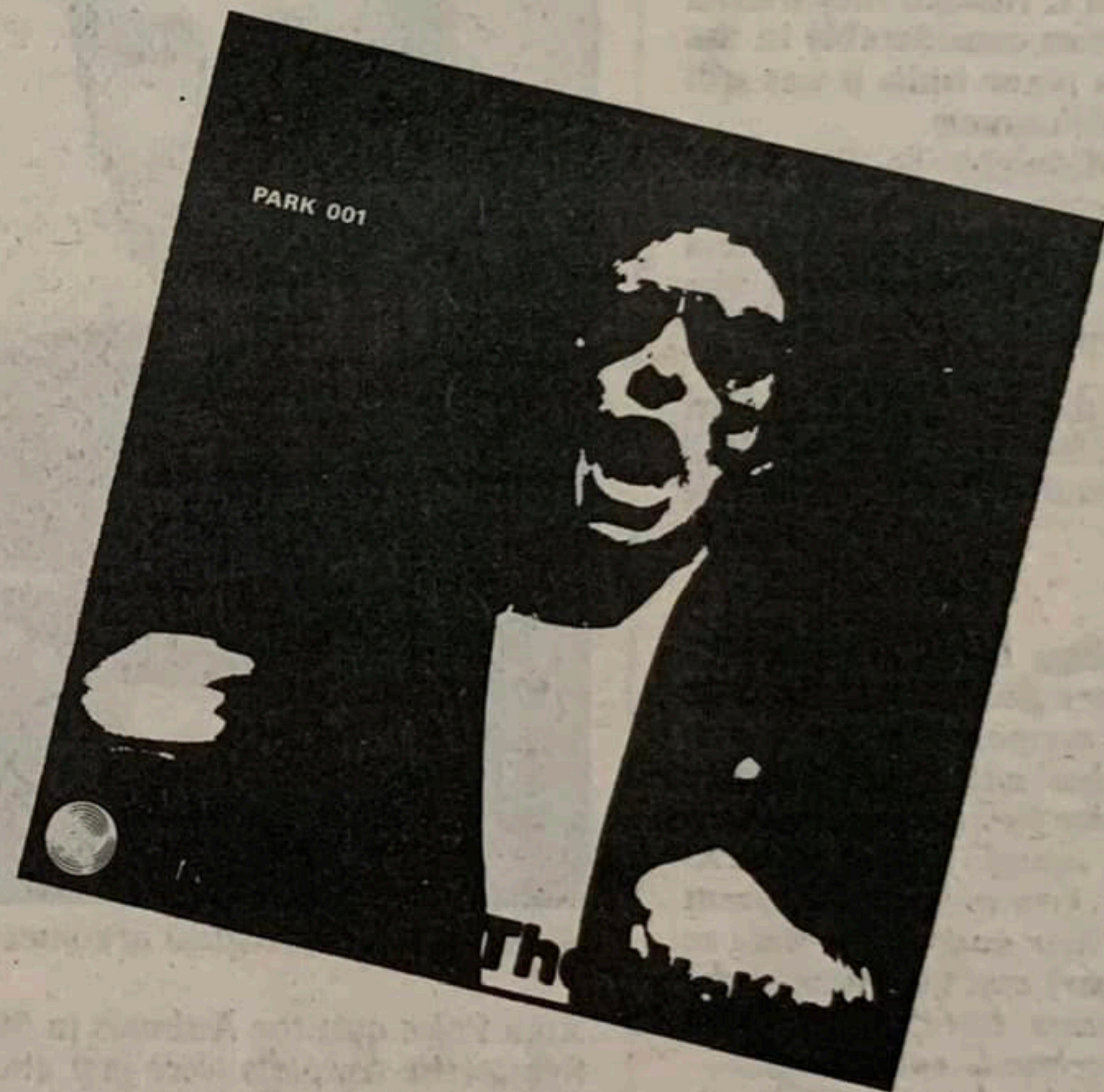
**PETER GABRIEL:** 'Solsbury Hill' (Charisma). Ex-Genesis wonderkid pops (and that's the word) back with a strong song that builds well and has a nifty

# White light and Pink blues



## THE 1977 SINGLE OF THE WEEK

**THE CLASH:** 'White Riot' (CBS). *At first I wasn't too taken with it but now after three days and maybe 25 plays I'm convinced. For sheer power and resolute nowness it makes everything else here look a bit sick. From the police siren start to the alarm bell finish, it's the vinyl gun in the guts of the fat cats that Mick and Joe had promised. It might even give the Radio 1 playlist panel a collective heart attack. The flip, '1977' is just as good and it's in a classic pic sleeve. What more could you ask? Maybe a little tougher production — using your road manager for that job is carrying self-reliance a little far.*



## DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE WEEK

**GRAHAM PARKER & THE RUMOUR:** 'The Pink Parker' EP (Vertigo). *As a card-carrying Parker fan, it's worrying to have to report that this is well below par. The two live tracks are great but they were on the bootleg. 'Hold Back The Night' is a Tramps song anyway and the horns are soggy. But, most depressing, the only new original, 'Sweet On You' is the slightest thing he's ever written. Maybe they should bring back Nick Lowe. If you're interested, the first 10,000 come in pink vinyl.*