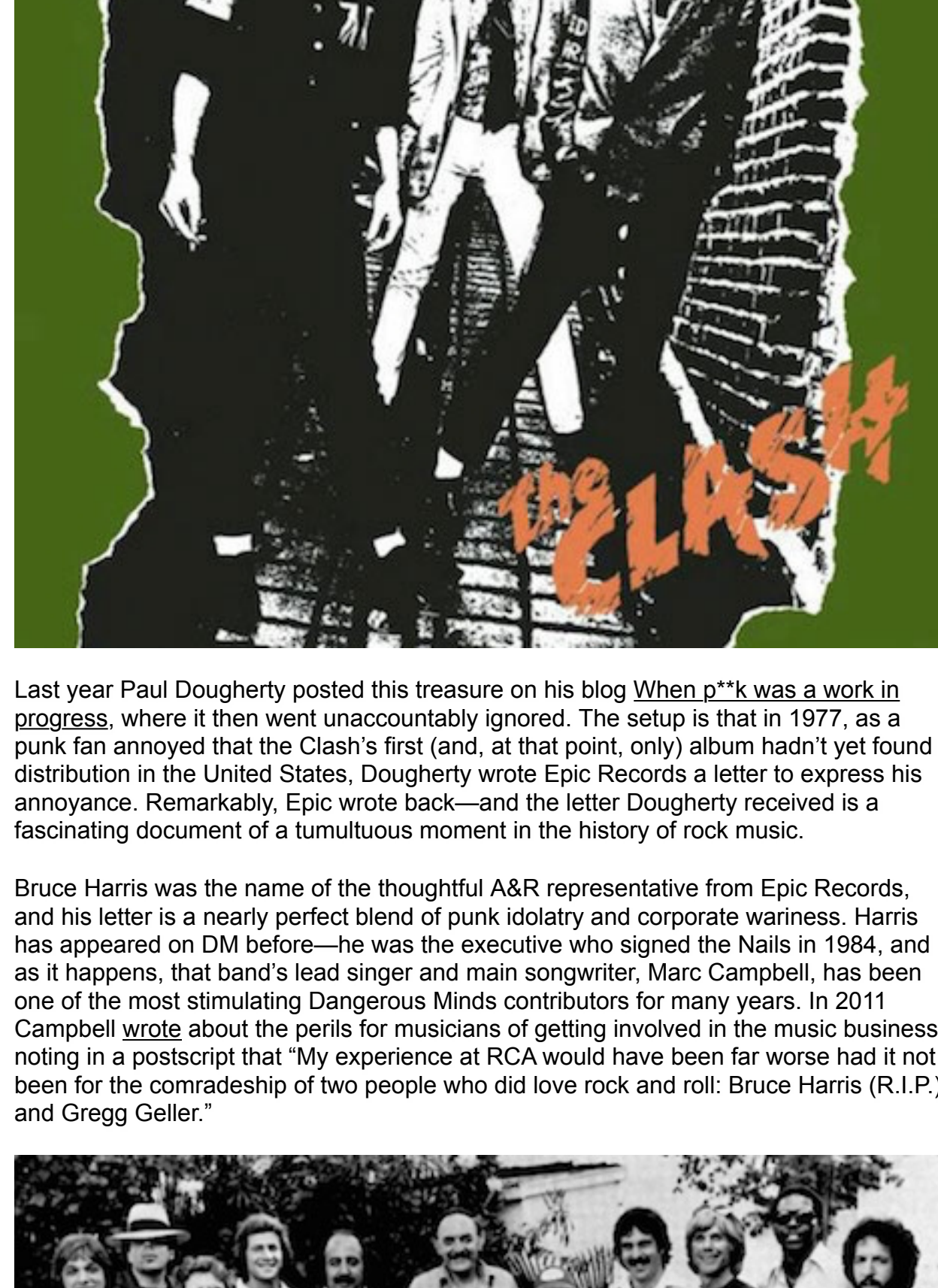


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RECORD EXEC'S LETTER TO A PUNK FAN ABOUT WHY HE PASSED ON THE CLASH



Last year Paul Doughtery posted this treasure on his blog When Punk was a Work in Progress...

Bruce Harris was the name of the thoughtful AAR representative from Epic Records, and his letter is a nearly perfect blend of punk volatility and corporate wariness.

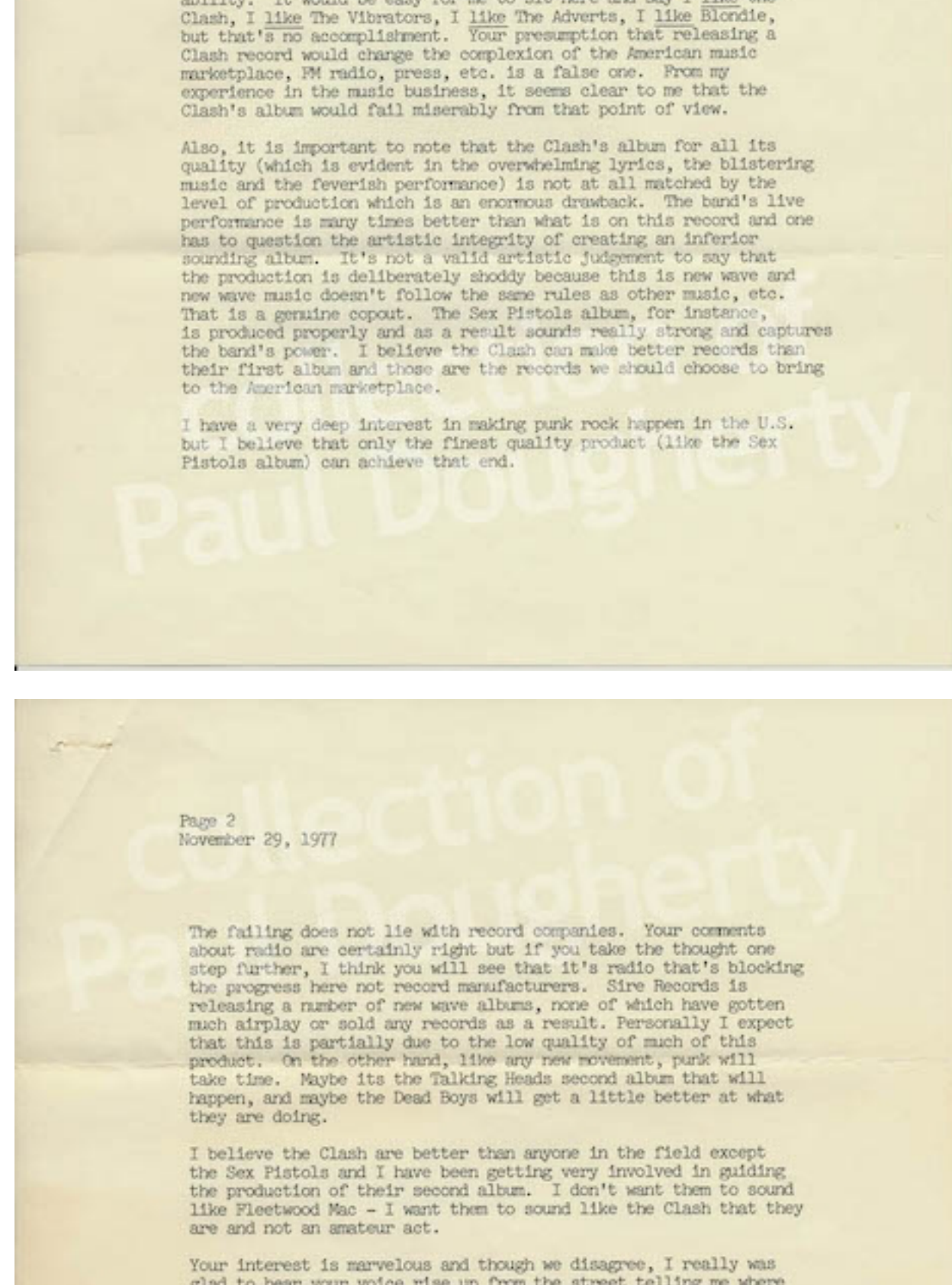


Epic Records A&R team, 1979. Bruce Harris is at left, wearing the hat. (As is true for most of the images on this page, click the picture to see a larger version.)

What's fascinating about Harris' letter to Doughtery, which is dated November 29, 1977, is that it shows a true appreciation of the unique talents of the Clash...

One ginsays Harris' expertise in handicapping the likely future success of bands in the American marketplace is one's skill, but what's hilarious about the missive is the extent to which he may have gotten it wrong.

OK—enough of my yakkar. Here's the letter, transcription is below.



Dear Paul: November 29, 1977. How nice you've responded to me and how nice you've said you're really into a little about how the music business works...

The following are the 314 rock records released. Your comments about them are appreciated. I'll be sure to look for them for the future...

I believe the Clash are better than anyone in the field except the Sex Pistols and I have been getting very involved in guiding the production of their second album...

I have a very deep interest in making punk rock happen in the U.S., but I believe that only the finest quality product (like the Sex Pistols album) can achieve that end.

The falling does not lie with record companies. Your comments about radio are certainly right but if you take the thought one step further...

I believe the Clash are better than anyone in the field except the Sex Pistols and I have been very involved in guiding the production of their second album...

Your interest is marvelous and though we disagree, I really was glad to hear your voice rise up from the street telling me where to go.

Best regards, Bruce Harris

The source for the Internal Epic Records images (not including the letter) is this marvelous PDF file.

Thank you Annie Zaleski

Posted by Martin Schneider | 4 Comments

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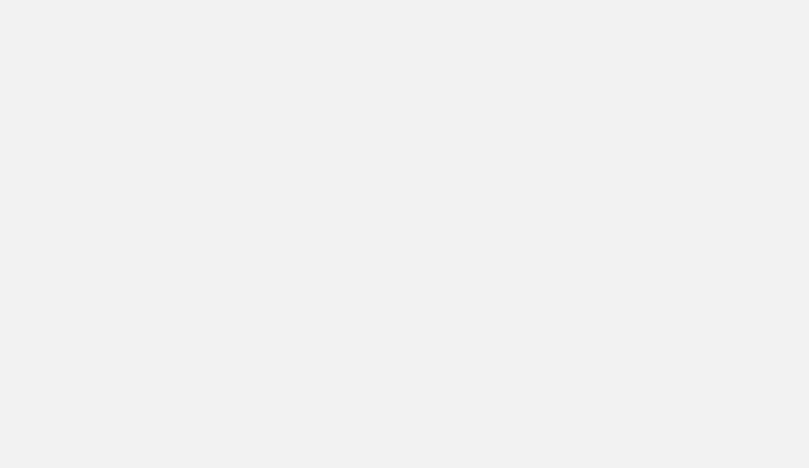


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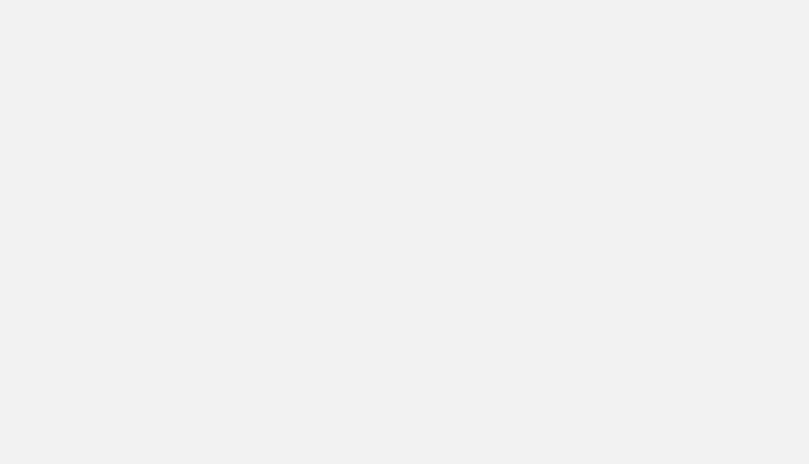


Hey Honey! Cause you left his Facebook open on the computer and got a message from PABLO! Thank you! But don't worry I didn't crush anything! Actually, I'm nice enough to package your things! And I even invited a game, since I know you love to play. (P.S. - I'm not a troll)

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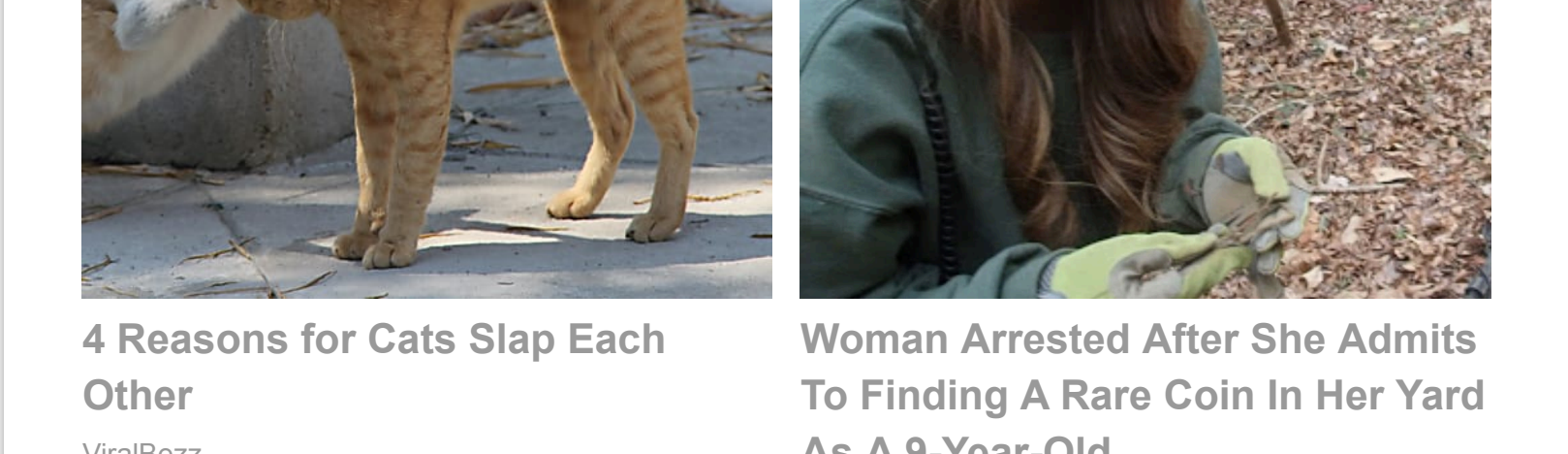
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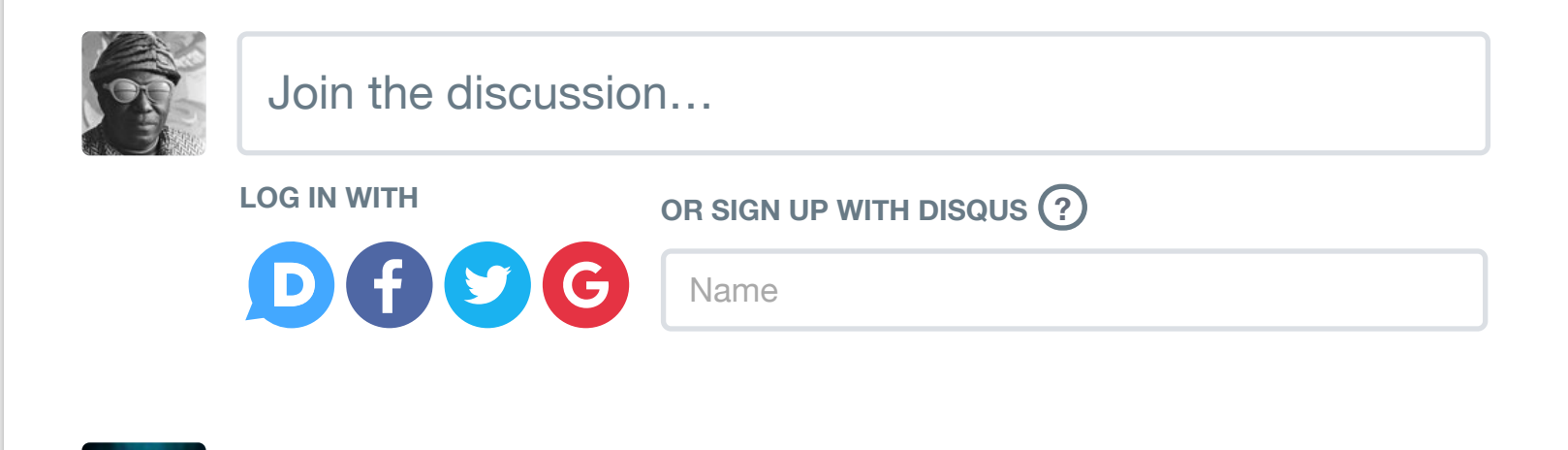
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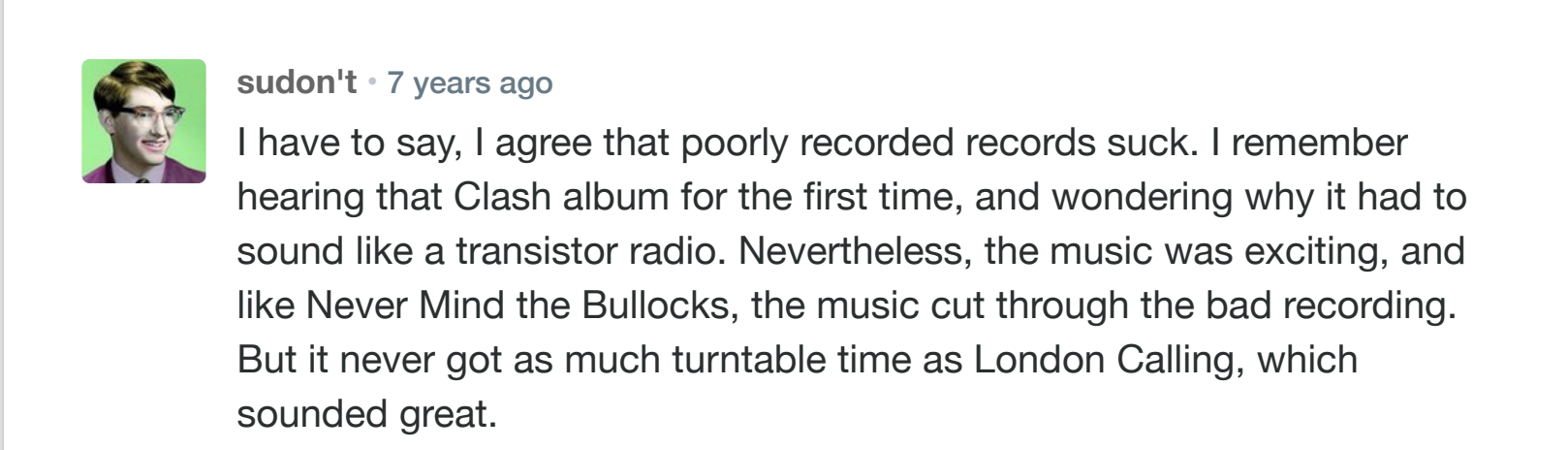
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Burrito Interrupted · 7 years ago Man, that is fascinating.

sudon! · 7 years ago I have to say, I agree that poorly recorded records suck. I remember hearing that Clash album for the first time, and wondering why it had to sound like a transistor radio.

Billy Crosby · 7 years ago Just imagine how many of your favorite bands wouldn't have a chance in hell of getting signed today?

This comment was deleted.

Edoan Guest · 7 years ago [OMG] Captain Kool And The Kongs 76-77 - disc 10

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