



"Whatever happened to Eric Blair?"
 Says **MICK JONES**
 of **THE CLASH**
 AS HE HACKS INTO A PILE OF
 RECENT 45s....

where earnest singer pledges to flog his mum to play in a rock'n'roll band!) . . . but O.K. They're really still in the garage, but that was alright. Pretty pop tune stuff. I like the way the bloke looks like Brian Jones.

Television screen - Radiators from Space
 (Chiswick)

(This lot have been bragging in the Sunday papers recently.) BRAG IT UP BOYS! As the chorus says "I don't like what's going down". Kind of sounds old-fashioned, dunnit? (Yes.) No hit. Let's find a hit! Look no further 'cos here's

Sam - Olivia Newton-John
 (EMI)

Dunno about a hit but it'll make a good frisbee from the 18th floor. Shit.

JAMES TAYLOR'S new one (CBS) (I've lost it and can't remember the title . . . or the record for that matter.) More shit. What can you say about these records except shit. That's all there is to it. Not a hit . . . well I hope not anyway.

Bermuda - Roky Erikson
 (Virgin)

More psychedelic revival stuff. Paul did this record in Sounds. He said "Can I have this one for Mick, he's got one of their records and he's waiting for it be worth something." I've got one anyway now Paul, in case I don't see you!

Forgot this one too but its by Heart'
 (CBS)

This is the direction Olivia Newton-John should take 'cos it sounds like her with an old warhorse of a group behind her. Light-heavy group, I think this is a load of shit. If you get in on the radio enough dumb people will go out and buy it to enhance their Jubilee parties.

The postman's knock - Albion Dance Band
 (Harvest)

(Ripped off and flung across room after three seconds.) I really hate that stuff, it makes me feel fucking ill, just thinking about it. I bet they're all happy bearded fellows.

Bob Seger EP (Warner Brothers) of fave raves . . . we hear GET OUT OF DENVER. More Hot Rods music. It's old rock'n'roll stuff. I suppose it's quite good but it leaves me unmoved. Nothin' there that can inflame my imagination I'm afraid. It doesn't have anything you can actually home in on. I might play it or I might not. I couldn't go round going "Bob Seger Rules O.K.". Sounds the same all that stuff, dunnit?

Your times are up - Eric Blair Band
 (Eton)

I think this is great. The guy was living over there in Windsor Street and he used to have to go into the Windsor Castle and ask for gigs . . . they always said no. If you're out there, Eric, start writing! I hope you're not a casualty and I hope you've found something good to do. Whatever happened to Eric Blair? I wondered. I last saw him about three years ago. They're a band that never got off - just one. (O.K.? Eric?) Kris Needs

EARTH BIRTH

By Paul Brett



It'll shake you
to the core.

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Mick Jones, livewire lead guitarist with The Clash, agreed to listen to a cross-section of recent 45's and comment on them as the first of a regular Zig Zag singles column - singles are a vital part of the scene now so they should be treated like albums.

I thought it might look a bit staged if Mick was confronted with a bunch of new wave singles so I went round a few record companies and grabbed a cross-section of stuff coming out that week, then added a few, from the specialist shops. One thing this showed was the amount of rubbish being churned out at the moment.

We're sitting in Mick's 18th floor flat in Westbourne Park. Records are picked at random from the pile on the bed until we can stand no more! Here we go . . .

It's what you value - George Harrison

(Warner Brothers), (Takes it off half way through.)

He used to be my second favourite Beatle . . . now he sounds like Ronnie Lane. NOT ONE FOR THE CHART! (chortle).

Spanish stroll - Mink de Ville

(Capitol)

Weak 60's soul pastiche with Lou Reed singing. Let's try the 'B' side . . . (We do. It's called 'Gunslinger') It sounds like he's singing himself on that side, not Lou, but kinda . . . weak tune. But I've got a feeling about this group. I think they're probably gonna be better than that.

Next we try the first 3 releases from Step Forward Records, the new wave label set up by Miles Copeland and Mark P. first on is . . .

Freeze - Models

Mick recites lyric: "Thousands of people going to take a stand, eh? Oh yeah? I wonder what sort of "Freeze" they're talking about . . . We try the 'B' side, 'Man of the Year'. It's really boring both sides.

Fascist dictator - Cortinas

I saw them at the Roxy when they first came down and I thought they were quite good. They were doing R'n'B stuff but I thought they were quite good . . . but something don't quite click yet. They're really young aren't they? So what do you expect, you know? It's kind of like . . . nothin' yet. In a year's time, maybe.

Right to work - Chelsea

"Don't take drugs, don't drink beer." What does he do for fun? I hope it's singing. They really leave me confused; it's everyone else's lyrics kind of mixed up. Sticks on 'B' side "The loner": Kinda dull really. None of these groups are up to much.

The walls of the world - Mike Batt

(Epic)

Sheer nonsense. That's all I can say to that. Womble on . . .

How long - Trinity

(Reggae pre-release.)

First record to survive entire duration on turntable. Mick falls back on bed with look of ecstatic delirium on face.

That's fucking great! We'll play that again. How long will it take, right. It's fucking great that stuff . . . sends me up here. I'm gonna get this!

My baby thinks she's a train - Asleep at the wheel

(Capitol) (Whipped off after about a minute.)

None of these records I can listen to all the way through. That sounds like "Blue Moon of Kentucky" by Elvis Presley. No way will THIS ever get anywhere. The two people who like that kind of thing in Zig Zag should be sentenced to listen to that for the rest of their lives (laughs)!

The Bizarros EP

(Gorilla Records)

The psychedelic sounds of the Bizarros. They come from Akron, Ohio. That's really interesting . . .) know someone from Akron, Ohio, . . . it must be the centre of rock'n'roll. This may be some kind of psychedelic revival with the Bizarros. Like the Stranglers, but worse - if there's such a thing. Flog it to someone . . . I won't buy it though.

Going back - The Byrds

(CBS)

I used to think the Byrds were fucking great. I used to really like the Byrds, and this is taken from "Notions Byrd Brothers" . . . it's great, but I don't really feel like listening to it now. I mean, I've got the Byrds albums but . . . I dunno why they brought it out really. A hit? No. The climate isn't right for the Byrds at the moment. The Byrds' revival's gonna come about next summer. I wish they'd come up with something which was good now. I used to think the Byrds were good and this is just another re-release.

Runaway - Bonnie Raitt

(Warner Brothers)

I didn't even like Del Shannon's one . . . no way am I going to like that. All these records are from albums, aren't they? I really like proper singles. Capitol Radio music this sounds to me. Maybe it'll get in the chart.

Mick rummages through the pile and selects the latest from CLIFF RICHARD - 'When two worlds drift apart', (EMI) I'm looking forward to this, he says! I don't like Middle of the Road and I don't like what its doing to Cliff Richard. He leaps up and grabs a rare 1960 Cliff EP - "Expresso Bongo" - from his collection. Through the hisses and scratches comes a song from exactly the same wimp-ballad mould . . . 'cept it's better. We both derive more pleasure from the EP's sleeve than either record. "Look at those pink socks! . . . Don't he look great!" (pointing at pouting Cliff flailing away at his bongoes) . . . "Look at that jacket! I'd wear that now!" Mick's parting shot before the next single; "Seventeen years later and he's still singing the same song!"

Red lights - Marbles

(Marbles)

I really like that. I don't believe them though - I don't think they're that desperate that they've got to sell their mother, (referring to line