



Mailman

Write to Mailman, Record Mirror, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London N7 7AX

PUNK—IT'S A REAL KILLER

Some say yes, some say no, but the letters roll in



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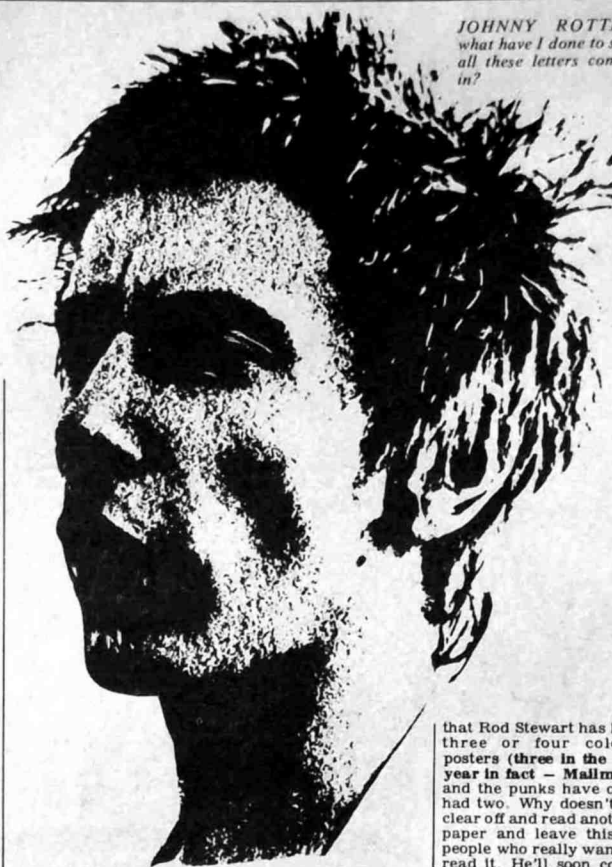
AFTER READING that letter in Mailman last week, sent in by that cretin Chris Tomlin I would just like to say I think punk rock is a real killer!! It expresses itself quite openly, no crap about how wonderful and romantic the world is — just pure facts. I think the Sex Pistols, the Jam etc should not be slagged — but worshipped for speaking openly. Here's one RM reader who's willing to buy two copies of the mag weekly (so you won't lose that imbecile's money). And congratulations on producing the world's greatest mag. Keep it up kids. A fan from Kenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

● How about making it eight copies?

Do you understand?

THEY CAN smash up their telephone boxes. You can't break the Heartbreakers Or laugh off the Ramones. Sex Pistols are banging Rod are having a Damned good **clash** with plenty of Jam on it. Household names are the essence. Who can Strangle that. Jimmy Kerr, Springboig, Glasgow.

● Or indeed understand it?



JOHNNY ROTTEN: what have I done to start all these letters coming in?

Variety is the spice of life

IN THE two and a half years I have been getting RM I have never been angered so much. How dare that unmentionable creature (Chris Tomlin) have the nerve to complain about this paper.

If he's read past the

first few pages where the new wave bands were featured he would see this is the only music paper that offers a variety of different appeals in music; soul, punk, disco, reggae, rock and roll and sometimes even MoR. Name any music of current popularity and it will probably be featured in RM.

If he reads back at old copies of RM he will see

that Rod Stewart has had three or four colour posters (three in the last year in fact — Mailman) and the punks have only had two. Why doesn't he clear off and read another paper and leave this to people who really want to read it. He'll soon come crawling back.

If the paper did not go with the times, I for one would not read it. Where the paper loses old men, it gains more young readers which I'm sure the editor would prefer to have. John Galligan, West-erham, Kent.

● We love ya.

It's what you want

I'M WRITING this in reply to Chris Tomlin who asks: "What's the bloody idea of having these so called new wave bands featured in this paper every week?" I'll tell him what the idea is — it's what the buying public want. Record Mirror has never been in better form and it caters for all tastes in music. And another thing, I don't suppose RM gives a damn whether people like CT or Swadlowe buys their paper or not. Thanks for the smashing interview last week with the Sex Pistols. Claire, Aberporth, Dyfed.

Play the B side

INSTEAD OF banning the Sex Pistols' 'God Save The Queen', on radio, why not play the B side instead? Like when they played 'Go Buddy Go' by the Stranglers instead of 'Peaches'. What's the point in having a record chart if they can't stick to it. This record is the best selling single this year, so why ignore it?

The DJs should play what we want, not what they want, after all it's the people who buy the records. We can't see what all the fuss is about. Any other time no-one

takes any notice of the Queen, but just because it's the Jubilee they all change. If they don't like the record, they can switch off.

Punk rock is here to stay so why not enjoy it? Keep putting it in your paper.

Irene And Roger, Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Just ordinary people

THANK YOU for the interview with the Sex Pistols (RM June 11th). It simply confirmed my opinion of them as ordinary people who are trying to make relevant comments about society, but who have tripped over their secondary school education on the way.

Let me first state I like music as diverse as the Ramones to the Supremes and keep an open mind about all music. However, I feel that someone should tell the Sex Pistols to belt up or think before they speak.

Sure, I think the Pistols do have many relevant social comments but the sooner they start arguing about them intelligently and leaving the Queen out of their criticisms, the better it'll be (because like it or not, the Queen is still more popular than Jonny Rotten). Then they'll find the youth of Britain is behind them. An intelligent Punk Loyalist, Watford.

● Didn't know there was such a species — come back in a year when I've worked it out.

This is our turn

TO ALL the moaners, leave RM alone. Punk is good, the words mean something. RM is the best when it comes to crazes. You've had Abba, the Rollers, Bowie and T. Rex. Now it's our turn.

Mark Redding, Newbury, Berks.

A surprise on the tube

FIRST OF all let me say I'm not a punk rocker, nor a punk hater, but I thought the interview with the Sex Pistols was very funny and agreeable at the same time. Also I thought you gave Chris Tomlin a great lecture about his biased letter. Lastly I'd like to thank the person, who three years ago left a copy of Record Mirror on a tube train from Caledonian Road station, I've bought every one since. Trev, of Whitney fame, London.

● As it's so near the office, it was probably one of the staff (drunk again!)

First cut is the deepest

I AM writing in admiration of the way you skilfully handled the letters from Chris Tomlin and someone called Samantha. I thought such sharp wit had died out with the black death. You're not a relation of Malcolm Muggeridge by any chance are you? With such a command of hyperbole, satire and sarcasm it's a wonder you get anyone writing to

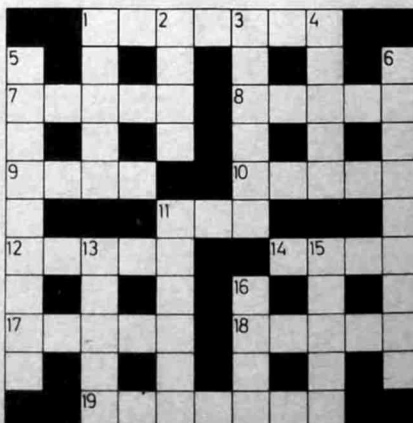
Discword

ACROSS

- Judas and his family are churchmen (7).
- A month with Nino Tempo's partner (5)
- Zappa can be quite outspoken. (5)
- This is a record! (4)
- "I'm A ——" (Beatles) (5)
- What a difference one makes (3)
- Capital entertainment. (5)
- Clifford T. is in hospital. (4)
- It happens in the Seventies. (5)
- Jane or Peter? (5)
- Real man needed for Miss Shaw. (7)

DOWN

- City where some singers spend "7" (5)
- Capri, for example. (4)
- How he's killing me with his song. (6)
- A partner for Crofts. (5)
- Dory tears round to see Mungo Jerry man. (3,8)
- Captain Rock group. (9)



- Hook or Feelgood, perhaps. (6)
- One from the Steve Miller book? (5)
- German group in car wash racket. (5)
- Alice Cooper has it with whiskey. (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- ACROSS: 4 Harper, 6 Sall, 7 Ano-n, 8 Bonnet, 9 There, 10 Clock, 13 Dancer, 15 Wall, 16 Mama, 17 Marian.
- DOWN: 1 Hannah, 2 Proby, 3 Pine, 5 Punk Rocks, 6 Sunflower, 11 Climax, 12 Tramp, 14 Adam.

you. What do you eat for breakfast? Broken glass? Keith Brett, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead.

Punk this, punk that

I AGREE with Chris Tomlin (He's getting more mentions than the Pistols - Ed). Record Mirror used to be good, fab, even great but now it's gone punk mad. Punk this, punk that. I wish they would punk off. Also I think Rosalind Russell's opinions of records is lousy. God save the Queen and long live the New Musical Express. (Who? - Ed). Mike Carr, Manchester.

Send Pistols to Uganda

THE SEX Pistols must be very sick people to insult our Queen. At least she is not like that pig Idi Amin. She could be evil and send plotters to be shot. She doesn't 'cos some of us are civilised people. Send the Pistols to Uganda. Colin Allen, Broxbourne, Herts.

Is it moron rock?

IT'S ABOUT time some of your readers (the young-

learned what the true definition of music really is - the sweet sounds of decent understandable lyrics. NOT punk groups with their monotonous row they call music. This can only be described as moron rock.

R. Breach, Kenley, Surrey
● Blimey, you sound like my dad.

Cancel this one

THE excruciatingly biased opinion of your journalists in favour of the Sex Pistols (when most of us common people can see them for what they really are - loud mouthed and obscene) has led me to an inescapable decision. After several years of loyalty I have cancelled my order for Record Mirror. I am not a particularly patriotic sort of person, but applaud the decision of the BBC and the IBA in not allowing the single airplay.

D. Robinson, Maldstone, Kent
● Byeec!

Keeping it clean

I HAVE to agree with Chris Tomlin (him, again?? - MM). You have now lost 30p. And what do you mean saying punk rock is music. Even a three eyed moron could play better than any of them. So you can keep your paper and shove it where you would put this paper.

C. Pitt, Hampshire.
● I'm glad we're losing

the kind of unrefined person that sends toilet paper through the post.

Having doubts

QUITE RECENTLY I've begun to have doubts about you and your comrades on RM. I now believe it's because you lot are always interviewing those greasy, dozy slob the Sex Pistols and that you're a bunch of puffs (SIC). If it wasn't for the publicity you give them in your 'Sex Pistols Weekly' they'd be unheard of. I dare say they'd still be licking the dirt off the streets of London's East and West Ends. The thought of the Sex Pistols makes me puke. If this carries on you'll lose another buyer - and you're not getting my address.

Furious Sex Pistols Hater, Co. Durham.
● Why have you got an obsession with puffs?

Punk Mirror

COME OFF it Record Mirror. I can remember when you were a decent music paper. You should be given the new title Punk Mirror as each week there's more than enough about punk rock. Don't forget there's some of us who're not into that trash. Brighten up your paper with a poster of Liverpool Express, or they have too much talent for your paper?

Ian, Ayrshire.
● No, it's not that... how about this week's punk poster instead?

Call that a drawing?

WHO DOES that bloody silly old fart Sheila Prophet think she is saying Slade are trying too hard when she reviewed their brilliant album. They've been going for 11 bloody years and are still going bloody strong. I have included a drawing of Sheila Prophet (a bloody masterpiece) and a picture of a bloke called David Brown who gave Slade's Christmas single a miss. So to Sheila Prophet and David Brown, get stuffed.

Ian Miller, Swindon.



Quite a good likeness of Sheila but David Brown's got curly hair

Involves no art

WE READ your newspaper every week and we enjoy most of the articles. However, we do not support your extensive coverage of punk rock. Punk rock is to music what the hippy is to society. It is a type of music which involves no art or creation of any kind. It is merely a form of rebellion against conventional music by the people who cannot compose creatively themselves.

If the current charts are spiced with punk records this is only because it is a new form of sound and at the moment it is provoking controversy. Fortunately, it is a passing phase which will sink without trace when the public inevitably

realise they are being deceived. Punk rock is not a new wave of music. Punk rock is punk. Harvie Diamond and Pete Lochart, Southpark Road, Ayr.

That's what our own Robin Smith said about the Beatles a hundred years ago.

Money for nothing

SEEING AS punk rock is the latest thing (which I don't like) people should not put it down. But I can't understand why people put up with the Sex Pistols. Apart from looking like a set of bloody fairies, they've made all that money for doing nothing. Long live Quo!

Quo Freak, Torquay.
● Yes, Quo and anyone else who sells records, including the Pistols.

You can keep it

AS I live in Aberdeen I do not get the chance to see many groups. I have, however seen Eddie and the Hotrods, the Jam and the Clash. If these are the best groups punk rock can offer then you can keep it. At last the public are recognising Genesis - at least they can play their instruments and sing. And they don't make insulting records against the Queen. Although the English will not believe it, the Scottish National party does not want independence from the Queen, only the English government.

Hamish McTavish, Powis, Aberdeen.
● Just remember who cut whose head off.

Short

YOU'VE REALLY done it this time. If Rock Follies isn't rock, what the hell is it? I've just got the LP and I think it's brilliant. Ask that Sheila Prophet to listen to it again will you. As for calling RM Punk Weekly, I think it's a fab idea and I'm going to join Chris Tomlin, you're gonna be 30p short next week.

J. O'Connor, Whetstone, London N20.

● Another one bites the dust.

Pig

I'M FED up with Jim Evans (Is he a male chauvinist pig?) (Yes - RR and SP). (Definitely - JE). It's not my fault he was born deaf. Why doesn't he retire? Sue Haines, Freckleton, Preston, Lancs.
● Pardon? - JE

Feedback

FEEDBACK answers your questions. Send your letters to: Record Mirror, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London, N7 7AX. Please don't send a stamped addressed envelope as we cannot answer letters individually.

Be Bop Deluxe

COULD YOU give me a list of all the albums and singles released by Be Bop Deluxe? Roy Farthing, Leeds.

● ALBUMS: 'Axe Victim' (Harvest SHUL 812), 'Puturama' (Harvest SHSP 4045), 'Sunburst Finish' (Harvest SHSP 4053), 'Modern Music' (Harvest SHSP 4068).

● SINGLES: 'Jet' (Harvest HAR 5081), 'Between The Worlds' (Harvest HAR 5091), 'Made In Heaven' (Harvest HAR 5095), 'Ships In The Night' (Harvest HAR 5104), 'Kiss Of Light' (Harvest HAR 5110), 'Hot Valves' (Harvest HAR 5117).

Howe now?

Who was the girl who recorded 'Harry Is My Love'? Nick Howe, Slough.
● None other than Catherine Howe.

Eagles

COULD YOU give me the birthdays of all the Eagles? Eagles fan, Norwich.
● For some strange

reason, their management would only give us their dates of birth not the years. Glen Frey November 6, Don Henley July 23, Randy Meisner March 18, Joe Walsh November 20, Don Felder September 21.

Kursaals

COULD YOU give me the address of the Kursaals Flyers' fan club? Angela Neary, London.

● They haven't got a fan club but for information write to Customer Relations, CBS Records, 17-19 Soho Square, London W1.

Olivia

I WOULD like to know the address of the Olivia Newton John fan club. Red Harris, Bristol.

● Write to MCA Incorporated, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, California 91609.

Mr Big

COULD YOU tell me the address of the Mr Big Fan club? Sue Joplin, Halifax.
● Write c/o Charlie Cook, 8 Harps Road, Summerdown, Oxford.

HARD TIMES

I am 14 years old and get erections at the most embarrassing times. I don't seem able to control them. I am too embarrassed to go to a doctor and am getting very worried. Are there any drugs or medicines I can take? What can I do? Paul, Didcot, Oxon.

● Lay off any drugs or medicines - you're going through a perfectly natural stage of physical development. All boys have exactly the same uncontrollable, and often embarrassing, experiences in their early teens and sometimes later.

Normally the penis becomes erect when

you're sexually aroused or excited, but there can be other reasons. An erection can happen anywhere and at any time - when you're sitting on a boneshaker of a bus, leaping around in the school gym, watching Tom and Jerry on the box, or simply because you're conscious off it.

Stay cool. Tensing the stomach muscles tightly can help, or you could try concentrating on something completely different.

Too shy to ask

I am writing in desperation. There is a girl at my secondary school who is a very good friend. We walk home together and discuss such topics as work, weekend activities and even boyfriends and girlfriends.

The trouble is obvious - I'd like to go out with her and have mentioned this to all my friends numerous times. I'm worried that if I try to turn it into more than a normal 'walking home' relationship, it will destroy our friendship, or at least make it embarrassing if she refuses. How can I ask her for a date? Eric, Northwest England.

Easy - just take your courage in both hands and DO IT. Would you rather chance a blow to

your pride or move away from the number one girl in your life without ever asking her out? She walks home with you, doesn't she? And that's just the time to bring the conversation around to the chance of a date.

Weekends seem to be a mutual talking point, so next time you're walking home, steer the conversation round to what she's doing next weekend - maybe there's a film in town you'd both like to see, or something. You know more about her interests than I do. If you keep your approach casual and friendly and she does refuse, you won't feel half so embarrassed.

You've got a sound friendship, and you could do worse than chance your luck and build on it. Remember, a faint heart never won far out lady.

Does this mean I have VD?

HELP



Answered by Susanne Garrett

MY FRIEND and I went to a girl friend's birthday party recently. We both got very drunk and I slept with a guy who I haven't seen since. My periods have been coming on time, so I'm not pregnant, but I have been getting a vaginal discharge for some time. I'm very worried as I'm afraid that I may have VD. I'm 16 by the way. LINDA, Liverpool.

● Vaginal discharge is not necessarily a sign of venereal disease, although of course it can be. It's quite usual for most girls to have a small amount of colourless or white discharge in their early teens. But if the discharge you've had has only come recently and is yellowish in colour, it's possible that you do have a minor vaginal infection which your family doctor could clear up quickly.

You must accept that you may have contracted some form of VD and take steps to find out for sure. Bear in mind that the most common age for girls to catch gonorrhoea

is between 15 and 19 years of age. Although many females show no symptoms at all, the first stage of gonorrhoea shortly after infection is a discharge, accompanied by a burning sensation when passing water.

Your best course of action is to go along to your nearest VD clinic, attached to your local hospital. They are there to help you - not moralise - and all tests and treatment are given free of charge and in complete confidence.

You don't need a doctor's letter to go along, and your confidence will be respected. Three tests are made at intervals, discharge you've had has and if they prove positive, treatment is simple and effective. Once cured - there's no more hassle. The only information you will need to give the clinic are the names of anyone you've had sexual contact with, so they can be contacted and also treated.

Ring any large hospital or your local Public Health Department (de-

tails in the phone book). Most clinics open from 10 am to 7 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

If any other readers know that they've had contact with an infected person, or even suspect that things aren't as they should be, you MUST take action now. If VD germs are allowed to remain within the body, the eventual results ain't too pretty. Gonorrhoea can eventually lead to sterility and other side-effects in both men and women. Syphilis can take up to 10 years to develop, but will eventually wreck your nervous system, brain and arteries.

Further information on types of venereal disease is available from the Family Planning Association, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1. On request, they will send an info-packed set of leaflets - 'What You Should Know About Sexually Transmitted Infections'. (Enclose a sae).