

AWAY FROM THE NUMBERS
ISSUE 1.

'Away From The Numbers' is published from Flat One, Castellau, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland.

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 jacki.

Contents:-

Jolt interview;
Battle of the Bands: the Damned v. The Jam.

Reviews:- singles: Clash & the Damned; albums: the Boys, Talking Heads & Dwight Twilley Band.

Reggae:- Burning Spear & Culture. U.S. New Wave.

Interested in '60's stuff? Send for a sample issue of 'Bam Balam'; a mag. devoted to '60's pop & psychedelia. Past issues have included the Move, Creation, Jook, the Seeds, the Flamin' Groovies & lots more. 35p. inc. p&p from the above address.

Future issues will have Merseybeat, the Scottish beat boom, Downliners Sect & more. All good stuff.

New issues in November/December.

A Ramones logo badge (Johnny, Joey, Tommy, Dee Dee) like the one on page 7, is also available from the Dunbar address.

It's 40p. including p&p. Write & ask about other punk badges too. Please address it to jacki.

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Hi.
This is the first issue of 'Away

From The Numbers'. It's an outgrowth of Bam Balam, a mag. written around '60's pop and new releases. As 1977 has provided more relevant releases; more exciting music than most others, there simply wasn't enough room to do both in the one magazine. Thus 'Away From The Numbers'.

Now there's space to do both old & new, without having to miss things out.

There's two reasons for the title. I love the Jam; and 'Away From The Numbers' is my fave Jam song. Also, the mag. is that; away from the numbers; away from the detail & discographies of 'Bam Balam'.

'Away From The Numbers' is about pop; about the excitement of the new music.

AFTN Top Ten:-

1. Complete Control: Clash.
2. Your Generation: Generation X.
3. Talking Heads 77: Talking Heads.
4. Truly: The Jayes with Ranking Trevor.
5. The Boys: the Boys.
6. Put You In The Picture: PVC 2.
7. You're Cold: the Jolt.
8. Twilley Don't Mind: Dwight Twilley Band.
9. My Generation: Patti Smith.
10. I Got A Right: Iggy Pop & James Williamson.

Bubbling Under:-

- Egyptian Reggae: Jonathan Richman & The Modern Lovers.
- Two Sevens Clash: Culture.
- The Young Ones: Secret.

See ya next time,

Handwritten signature
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Away From The Numbers 1.
October 1977.

connection makes it more original.

It's teen and it's fun; and it's one to play.

RIP TOFF.

Talking Heads: TALKING HEADS 77
(Sire Import).

77 is a great album; quirky & innovative. But it's a little disappointing. Live, the group are a group, they're tight and David Byrne & Jerry Harrison make it tighter; cutting chords at each other across the stage.

77 isn't like that. Songs which were live songs live, become studio songs. I don't know. I guess it's different.

But that's all the bad bits.

77 is hard to pin down, David's songs are so original. Only on 'Don't Blame The Government' does any influence come thru' (10cc.) & there only for a moment. Anyway, it's not important; all of the influences have been completely reshaped into something completely original. David's voice dominates. There's guitars & pianos but it's a vocal record, especially on 'Pulled Up', where he gasps for breath twice. He sings like it's a habit.

I like 'No Compassion' & 'Psycho Killer' the best.

'Compassion' is powerful, musically & in it's feel. 'Psycho Killer' is more tense; like the Otis/Stax stuff. It's the drumming; Chris Frantz is so good, he pulls all the songs in if they start to wander.

The rest's great too. There's a new 'New Feeling' showing how the group has changed. Yeah, the more I hear it, the less the disappointment. In a month I'll wonder what the doubts were.

JOHNNY ROMANTIC

Dwight Twilley Band: TWILLEY DON'T

MIND (Island/Shelter).

Something's gone wrong.

Last year, they put out 'Sincerely' which was great. Now this. Which isn't. Like, it isn't bad, it's just less exciting. It sounds like they've played for safety.

'Sincerely' was crammed with snappy pop songs. These songs are much less catchy much more careful.

'Invasion' is most like the old stuff, like the Twilley's who pumped out songs for fun. At the other end is 'Sleeping', 6 minutes long, with strings. Even worse; some of the cuts have horns. Ok so the Clash use a sax on the flip of 'Control', but these are the real toot-toot ones.

There is lots to like, 'Invasion', 'Here She Comes', 'Looking For The Magic' (yeah, me too) & 'Trying To Find My Baby', but nothing matches 'I'm On Fire' or 'You Were So Warm' or 'Sincerely' itself.

Apparently, they had about three albums' worth of stuff to choose from. Maybe that's the problem. They tried too hard.

BLANK FRANK.

The Clash: 'Complete Control'/'City Of The Dead' (CBS).

I love this single. So many new-wavers, like the Stranglers, are stuck. The Clash aren't. They've expanded musically, Mick Jones gets a solo, but it is still very much the Clash.

It's a protest; about something close to the feelings of the group, so the anger is more real. Strummer spits out the words; disgusted; and the group play tight and intense.

It's raw; like 'I Can't Explain' or 'You Really Got Me'. Not musically; it's clasmusic, but in feel & urgency. And the slight Lee Perry touch is marvellous.

'City Of The Dead' is great too. Saxophones, harmonies (Clash 'uns) & a stunning riff blast thru'.

This has to be the single of the year.

ALBERT RAMSBOTTOM.

The Damned: 'Problem Child'/'You Take The Money' (Stiff).

The Clash progress, and succeed. The Damned try, and slip. 'Problem Child' isn't the ovrst single ever as I've heard it describe, but it's disappointing. Now Scabies has quit too so there's problms ok.

It's not powerful. Where they try to zoom in on the chorus, it doesn't work. I guess you can blame Nick Mason, but the group must have liked it too. It isn't bad; just weak, and so's the flip too. Even the pic. sleeve is bad.

Certainly, If this is Lu's beginning; why he was brought in, then they were better without him. But then the new album (all with Nick the Pink) is meant to be great.

We'll see.

Shorts:-

I've not heard the Jolt single yet, but live the song is great. The weeklies have pulled it apart & somehow I can't see it's that bad. Tell ya in issue 2.

The Secrte have a fun version of 'The Young Ones' out.

Jerry Nolan has split from the Heartbreakers, but the tour goes on. Rat Scabies may replace him. First Chelsea, now the Damned & the Heartbreakers.

Howard Devoto (ex Buzzcocks) has formed a new group called Magazine.

Also coming to Edinburgh (see page5) are the Tom Robinson Band, but not 'til November.

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The Battle of the Bands was a US sixties thing where a whole bunch of local groups would play each other to find a winner.

Here's another; this time on paper: the Jam v. the Damned.

Score out of ten:-

Debut album: Jam 7, Damned 9.

Non-album singles: Jam 5 songs (one point per song (includes new single) Damned 4 points.

Pic covers 3 points each.

Rare atifact single: Damned 5 points for 'Stretcher Case Baby'/'Sick Of Being Sick'.

Image: Jam 10 points, Damned 3 points.

Album cover: Jam 6 points, Damned 4 points.

Single pic sleeves: both groups 10 points each for having all 45s in pic covers.

Production: Damned would have had 10 for Nick Lowe but get cut to 5 for Nick Mason. Still they tried Shel Talmy.....7 points. (mind you they should lose some for giving him up). Jam 8 points coz their production fits perfectly.

Say hello to the 60's: Jam 10 points Damned 5 points (for 'Help')

Say hello to the 70's: Jam 4 points Dmaned 8 points (for 'Help')

Best 3 cuts from the album:

Jam:- Aawy From The Numbers 10

In The City 10

Sounds From The Street 9

Damned: Neat Neat Neat 10

Fan Club 10

New Rose 10.

Rare artifact album: 5 points to the Damned for the 'Rods' cover.

Best single pic cover: Jam 10 points for 'All Around The World'; Damned 7 points for 'New Rose'. (Maybe they should get 10 for 'Sick Of Being Sick'. Nah. That wasn't generally available.)