

TWO FOR THE ROAD

★ **CHART-TOPPING** disco acts Chic and Sister Sledge, master-minded by instrumental wizards Bernard Edwards and Nile Rogers, arrive in Britain at the end of September for separate tours.

Chic, who's "Le Freak" was their record company's biggest-ever single, play London's Hammersmith Odeon on October 8 and 9 after opening at Sheffield on September 30 for their eight-date tour.

Sister Sledge, currently in the charts with "Lost In Music" play Hammersmith Odeon on September 30 before closing their ten-date tour at Birmingham Odeon on October 9.

POP

by ALAN GARROTT

DAVE VANIAN, the former gravedigger who now digs all things supernatural, would be at home with Dracula.

He has even borrowed his name from Drac's home killing ground, Transylvania.

But as The Damned's lead singer, he is rarely at home. After an exhausting tour of America, Dave and the group have spent the last few months putting together a new album. Now they're planning a British tour.

"It will shock some and surprise many," says Dave. "We are still as noisy as ever, and occasionally as outrageous, but we have come a long way from being branded punk troublemakers."

Their first single, "Love Song" reached 16 in the charts but before that all they had were headlines for their misbehaviour on stage.

Dave says of the forthcoming album: "It has all our usual vitality, but it's quite a mix. We even include organ and violin music."

Keen

Soon Dave hopes to be moving on from his basement flat in Islington, London. He wants a country home that he can fill with the macabre bric-a-brac that he and his American-born wife Laurie have collected.

Laurie says: "Dave has always been keen on horror, and I share his enthusiasm."

"We have a black cat called Demon and a couple of rats which we keep in a cage. We're thinking of naming them Rigor and Mortis."

"Yes, we do get strange looks and giggles when we're out shopping together. I can't think what the neighbours make of us."

Laurie designs and makes all Dave's gear. "I have been a dress designer and I used to have my own market stall. One day I would love to have my own boutique."

"Naturally, black is my favourite colour."

STOP PRESS POP 30

- 1 (8) I DON'T LIKE MONDAYS—Boyz n the Bay
- 2 (9) WE DON'T TALK ANYMORE—Ollie Richard
- 3 (14) REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL PART 3—Jan Dury and the Blockheads
- 4 (7) HERSHAM BOYS—Sham 66
- 5 (12) AFTER THE LOVE IS GONE—Earth, Wind and Fire
- 6 (13) DIARY OF HORROR WIM—Squire Light Orchestra
- 7 (2) DANT STAND LOSING YOU—Police
- 8 (5) ANGEL EYES—VOULEZ-VOUS—Abba
- 9 (6) WANTED—Doolittle
- 10 (11) BEAT THE CLOCK—Sharks
- 11 (3) BORN TO BE ALIVE—Patrick Hernandez
- 12 (4) GIRLS TALK—Dave Edmunds
- 13 (17) DUKE OF EARL—Davie
- 14 (21) GANGSTERS—Specials
- 15 (10) ANGEL EYES—Rocky Musto
- 16 (26) RANG BANG—The Robersons
- 17 (23) STAY WITH ME TILL DAWN—Judie Tzuke
- 18 (22) MORNING DANCE—Spyro Gyra
- 19 (20) OOH I WANT A LIFE—Osaka Brothers
- 20 (16) MY SHARONA—Knack
- 21 (15) IF I HAD YOU—Eagles
- 22 (10) BREAKFAST IN AMERICA—Supertramp
- 23 (18) IS SHE REALLY GOING OUT WITH HIM?—Joe Jackson
- 24 (28) GOOD TIMES—Chic
- 25 (1) GOTTA GO HOME—Boney M.
- 26 (25) BILLY GAMER—Diane Kay
- 27 (1) SWEET LITTLE ROCK 'N' ROLLER—Showaddywaddy
- 28 (19) MONEY—Flying Lizards
- 29 (24) JUST WHEN I NEEDED YOU MOST—Randy VanWarmer
- 30 (34) BAD GIRLS—Donna Summer

Two titles tied for 24th position. Supplied by Melody Maker

SOUNDS CREEPY

That's The Damned



BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL: Dave Vanian with his wife Laurie and their cat Demon.

Big break for Bobby's Dazzlers

★ **BEING** a new young pop star is little better than being on the dole, says Bobby Harper of The Dazzlers. "No one will believe how tough the business is these days," says Bobby, 22.

Bobby started playing guitar after he quit school with eight O-levels to work in a bank. Then he left the bank, went to college and played bass with Mark Knopfler's pre-Dire Straits band. From there he played drums with The Clash and went on to lead guitar for U.K. Subs, where he teamed up with bass player Steve Slack.

"Steve and I decided to form our own group along with Dave Modesty. We needed a singer and held auditions in my living room. That's how we found Keith Wild."

The lads' first single

inspired Tommy "Ramone" Erdelyi. He flew over from America to produce The Dazzlers' debut album, "Feeling Free."

The LP is due out in October, and the title track is released as a single this week at the start of The Dazzlers' first tour, which begins in Birmingham on Saturday.

Bobby says: "We are simply a modern beat group — certainly not punk or new wave."

At last The Dazzlers have their chance to shine.

SINGLES

- ★ **GARDNER AND BOULT**: "Hollywood" (Gem). Catchy unusual song. After a few plays you feel as if you've known this duo for years.
- ★ **JOHN WILLIAMS**: "Air On A G String" (Electric). Following his "Cavatina" hit, Williams updates this popular classic. A winner.
- ★ **FISCHER 2**: "First Impression" (United Artists). Group that's going places. One to watch.
- ★ **BILLY CONNOLLY**: "In the Brownies" (Polydor). Hilarious send-up of Village People's "In the Navy." Will certainly shoot up the charts.

DARTS ON TARGET

★ **DARTS** are preparing for a massive tour. The band will play 45 concerts in 36 towns from mid-September to end of October. Their new album, "Dart Attack" which was produced by former Wizard and ELO leader Roy Wood, is out at the beginning of the tour.

★ **LINDISFARNE**, who re-formed last year to the delight of their many fans, hit the tour trail with a huge series of British concerts next month.

The tour, which runs through to mid-December, follows the release of their new album "The News" on September 14.

★ **FEAR** of a small crowd because of the rival Who gig at Wembley Stadium on Saturday has forced the cancellation of the Buzzcocks' open-air concert in London's Hyde Park.

REVEILLE

THE ONE THAT'S GOT IT ALL! ★ ☆

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GORGEOUS GIRLS

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LAUGHS

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REVEILLE

GET IT EVERY

WEEK! ☆ ★

