## lash makes music that matters

THE CLASH don Calling (Epic E2 36328):

The sticker on this brand new double album hypes the Clash as the only rock band that really matters.

Like any good hype it's an obvious exaggeration based on a sufficiently large grain of truth to be oddly

fitting.
The Clash is about the only genuine punk band left and though London Calling may be their most accessible, easiest-to-listen-to release yet, the punk conotation remains important, important, especially while other survivors have hidden behind less intimidating labels like wave.

A lot of new wave and power pop bands are using early '60s British-invasion rock and roll as their base, especially the spirit if not always the exact sound. But the Clash says "phoney the Clash says "phoney Beatlemania has bitten the dust" and gets away with it because the Clash remains one of the few, if not the only, band to strike out boldly in genuinely new directions.

And the Clash don't merely charge ahead where few bands dare to go, they do it with great power, presence and persuasion.

They continue to evolve and improve while the Sex Pistols, in one of the most fitting gestures of our time, simply self destructed because of the Clash's delightful determination to have its music and play it too.

Less rough and raucous than its predecessors, Lon-don Calling is a great rock and roll album, an instant classic.

The Clash is calling and if you want to be where the real musical action is, you'd be well advised to listen up.

## LINDA RONSTADT Mad Love (Asylum X5F-510)

Disco's defunct, Tusk turned out to be a white elephant and the Eagles are wisely worried about surviving in the long run.

Once again the old order is rapidly fading. The mellow haze is giving way to black and white intensity just check out the stark, pseudo-new wave cover of the new Linda Ronstadt album.

It's also reflected in this professional vocalist's choice of material—the California cool of the L.A. school of songwriters has given way to the testy tauntness of Elvis Costello.

Yes, the album has its two pop chestnuts—the old Hollies hit Can't Let Go and a classic tearjerker

Hurt So Bad—and they're





Ronstadt's new style

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both done up externely well but as forcast, it also represents a tougher rock -sort of Linda Ronstadt sings new wave.

The obvious about face hurts the album's credibility a bit but Ronstadt started out as a bit of a screamer and has always been a technician who turns in mostly fine jobs on what-ever she handles. Thus I eventually found myself falling in like with the album, but no mad love.

As for Ronstadt's softcore following, if they feel suddenly alienated it's of little concern. Ronstadt certainly has built up a large enough catalogue for them to fall back on.

HEART -Bébé le

strange (Epic FE 36371):

Behold a slightly-above-average effort from a would-be heavy metal Fleetwood Mac.

However the same question as above haunts the album: is there a place for such rock traditionalists as Heart in the future? Heart is polishing old laurels raththan breaking any new ground and anyway, even if they moved with the times we want new music from old groups?

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but the little girls under-stand (Capitol SOO-12045):

Perhaps they do. Last year The Knack surprised the music business by showing that commercial (bubble gum?) new wave rock and roll can sell.

However, the genuine new wave has begun to sell as the middle-ground listening audience begins to catch up with the more adventurous rock souls.

This follow-up album, which naturally enough opens with a reprise of last year's big hit My Sharona, now called Baby Talks Dirty, reaffirms the band's weaknesses as much as confirming its strengths.

I still think the Knack are overrated and this album tends to confirm that

GARFIELD -Reason To Be (Polydor 2424183):

Chapter three in the musical diary of a modern bandleader called Garfield putting my money down, I'd look for adventure.

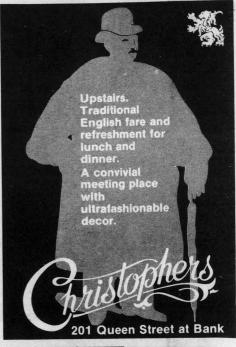
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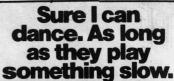
little changed so that Gar-

French is a logical compa-field fans and foes alike nion piece to Strange will have little reason to alter their opinions.

It's still not likely to

The subject and style is break this rock-figure-inwaiting but I like it.







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