

Readers' letters

MM JAN-JUN A Genesis fan laments, McLaren telegrams and Strummer explains.

Etymology in the UK

It seems strange that, with the exception of a brief mention by Michael Watts, no one has actually paid much attention to the actual meaning of the word "punk". I have always understood it to mean a young man who would, willingly or unwillingly, submit to anal intercourse.

The word apparently had its origin in prison, where the victim was usually unwilling. Thereafter, owing to society's peculiar double-standard, the "punk" was a despised and unwanted person, similar in status to a female "tramp". Because no pride of any kind could obviously be attached to the term, "punk" is one that the gay community has never wanted. Interesting?

VALERIE WILMER, Balham, London (MM Jan 1)



Genesis: it's no joke

When it was announced that Peter Gabriel was

leaving Genesis, the question uppermost in everybody's mind was: "Can they exist without him?" For, indeed, he was the Genesis image with his strange tales, macabre costumes and eccentric behaviour on stage.

Now, two albums later, they have shown that they are capable of producing excellent music and a stage act that stands up without Peter Gabriel. However, in doing so they have lost something that was very important in creating the Genesis "persona" of the first five albums. They've lost their sense of humour.

Compare tracks like "Harold The Barrel" (*Nursery Cryme*), "Supper's Ready" (*Foxtrot*) and "The Battle Of Epping Forest" (*Selling England By The Pound*) with anything from *Trick Of The Tail* and *Wind And Wuthering*. They still use the technique of putting whimsical little stories into song, with beautiful, haunting music, but there is nothing on either album to give any relief from the seriousness, which at times becomes positively agonising.

I agree that, with the departure of Gabriel and their reaching the top of the "first division", they are bound to change and grow more sophisticated. However, with this increasing sophistication they are going to start losing many younger

supporters. Having been a fan ever since they played the Mad Gin Mill at the Angel Hotel, Godalming, in the early days, it saddens me to think that they are losing that certain eccentricity which went a long way to making Genesis what they are today.

M WREFOD-BUSH, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey (MM Jan 15)

Beatles: oldies but goldies?

If EMI are to continue repackaging Beatles material, then why don't they use some initiative and release an EP consisting of the only tracks otherwise unavailable from the *Yellow Submarine* LP - "Hey Bulldog", "Altogether Now", "Only A Northern Song" and "It's All Too Much", which Steve Hillage recently revived? Such a record would be more useful to the fans than haphazard collections such as *Rock And Roll Music*.

STEVE PARTRIDGE, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester (MM Jan 1)

When I read that the ex-Beatles were attempting to stop the release of an album made before their unprecedented rise to fame, I felt I would have to write to express my, and probably many other fans', feelings on the subject.

As I see it, they are trying to stop the disc on the grounds that it would be derogatory to their careers. Well, I can't think of anything more derogatory to their individual careers than *Living In The Material World* (George), *Wings At The Speed Of Sound* (Paul/Wings) and *Ringo's*

Rotogravure (Ringo). The reason surely can't be that it would kill sales of the up-and-coming EMI live album, because why should any of them care, as they are no longer signed to EMI!

I am sure Beatle fans everywhere would much rather have previously unreleased songs, (eg, "Falling In Love Again", "I Remember You" and "To Know Her Is To Love Her") than already over-released tracks (eg, "Ticket To Ride", "Can't Buy Me Love" and "She Loves You"), even if they are unreleased versions.

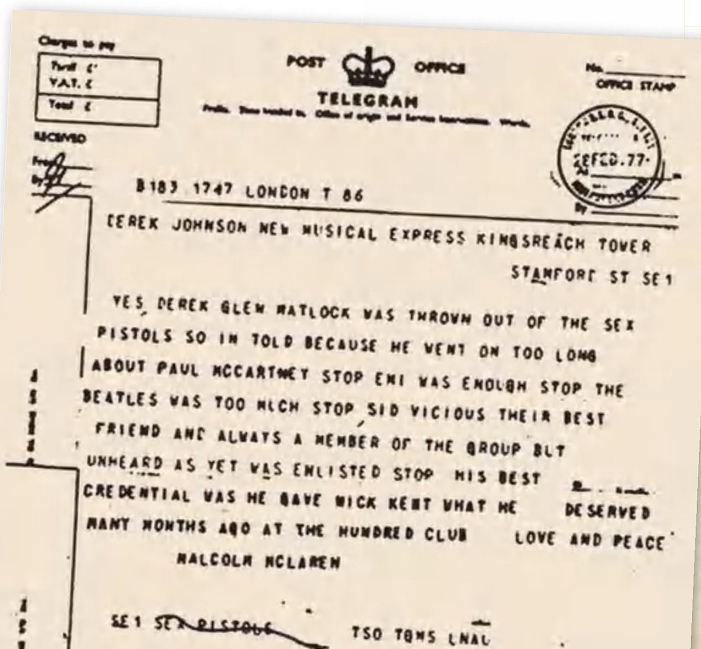
MICHAEL RINFOUL, Banholm View, Edinburgh (MM Apr 23)

The Clash write, right?

Right now you're on a 31 bus with your mate, lighting up a fag. You notice some pink-and-black posters stuck on a wall in Kilburn. You say, "Fuck me, The Clash are playing the Roundhouse Easter weekend." Having sod all better to do, you wander down the Roundhouse, pay your two quid and, blimey, what's this, The Clash and Subway Sect don't turn up.

What happens? You get The Boys, Generation X and hippie John Cale, all on a duff PA. Being a bit of a flash sod yourself, you want to know who's conning you, so here goes: 1) The Clash were never contacted to play the Roundhouse. 2) All posters and ads stating The Clash were to play were crap information.

Stay with us, wise up quick and keep fighting. See you soon, kids. JOE STRUMMER, The Clash (MM, Apr 23)



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