

Rhythm Review with Alan English

GOLDEN DISCS

The records reviewed in this column are available at Golden Discs, downstairs in Todds.

Your choice

Send your Top Ten albums of all time to Rhythm Review, 54 O'Connell St., Limerick. Publicity shy readers need not enclose a photograph if they so desire.

RECORD RATINGS

- ***** Magnificent
- **** Excellent *** Good
- ** Weak * Abysmal

MY TOP TEN

A student without The Smiths, Lloyd Cole or Prince in the Top Ten? Miracles will never cease. Annette O'Connor from Castletroy manages perfectly well without the above gentlemen, thank you. This Top Ten is in no particular order.

- 1: JONI MITCHELL "Court And Spark" (1974)
- 2: TOM WAITS "Swordfishtrombones" (1985)
- 3: VAN MORRISON "Astral Weeks" (1968)
- 4: JONI MITCHELL "The Hissing Of Summer Lawns" (1975)
- 5: BOB DYLAN "Highway 61 Revisited" (1965)
- 6: BOB DYLAN "The Freewheelin'" (1963)
- 7: RANDY NEWMAN "Trouble In Paradise" (1983)
- 8: THE PRETENDERS "The Pretenders" (1980)
- 9: DIRE STRAITS "Making Movies" (1980)
- 10: NANCY GRIFFITH "Little Love Affairs" (1988)

Golden Discs Top 20 Album Chart

- 1: HOTHOUSE FLOWERS "People"
- 2: BROS "Push"
- 3: MICHAEL JACKSON "Bad"
- 4: BELINDA CARLISLE "Heaven On Earth"
- 5: FLEETWOOD MAC "Tango In The Night"
- 6: CELEBRATION OF DUBLIN "25 Street Ballads"
- 7: VARIOUS ARTISTS "Dirty Dancing"
- 8: AZTEC CAMERA "Love"
- 9: NANCY GRIFFITH "Little Love Affairs"
- 10: TRACY CHAPMAN "Tracy Chapman"
- 11: A-HA "Stay On These Roads"
- 12: BRUCE HORNSBY & THE RANGE "Scenes From The Southside"
- 13: WHITNEY HOUSTON "Whitney"
- 14: PRINCE "LoveSexy"
- 15: VAN HALEN "OU812"
- 16: THE STARS OF HEAVEN "Speak Slowly"
- 17: WET WET WET "Popped In, Souled Out"
- 18: ROD STEWART "Out Of Order"
- 19: BOB DYLAN "Down In The Groove"
- 20: VARIOUS ARTISTS "More Dirty Dancing"

Golden Discs Top 20 Singles Chart

- 1: IRISH SOCCER SQUAD "The Boys In Green"
- 2: KYLIE MINOGUE "Got To Be Certain"
- 3: WET WET WET "With A Little Help..."
- 4: AZTEC CAMERA "Somewhere In My Heart"
- 5: TIFFANY "I Saw Him Standing There"
- 6: DESIRELESS "Voyage Voyage"
- 7: SABBINA "Boys"
- 8: BROS "I Owe You Nothing"
- 9: A-HA "The Blood That Moves The Body"
- 10: FAIRGROUND ATTRACTION "Perfect"
- 11: ERASURE "Chains Of Love"
- 12: BELINDA CARLISLE "Circle In The Sand"
- 13: MORRISSEY "Everyday Is Like Sunday"
- 14: SISTERS OF MERCY "Lucretia-My Reflection"
- 15: FAT BOYS & CHUBBY CHECKER "Let's Twist"
- 16: SCRITTI POLITTI "Oh Patti"
- 17: HOTHOUSE FLOWERS "Don't Go"
- 18: PREFAB SPROUT "The King Of Rock And Roll"
- 19: FIVE STAR "Another Weekend"
- 20: ROD STEWART "Lost In You"

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ARE YOU ALONE?

ARE YOU WORRIED?

Confidential Service committed to the care and service of the single pregnant girl and her baby or women with an un-planned pregnancy.

ALBUM REVIEW

Knockin' on Heaven's Door

THE STARS OF HEAVEN: "Speak Slowly" (Rough Trade). My occasional forays into the singles market (as in 45 rpm) are usually courtesy of the various bargain bins around the town. If you're quick off the mark you can often pick up a pretty decent 45 for a quid, which is about as much as I'm usually prepared to pay for a single. All of which goes to emphasise that when I do stump up the ready for a full-priced offering the signs are promising indeed.



One such indulgence was The Stars Of Heaven's 1985 debut single "Clothes Of Pride"/"All About You". It has taken them until now to truly deliver on that promise with what, if you don't count the session collection "Sacred Heart Hotel", is their first studio LP.

I expected something pretty good. I didn't expect this. This is the best Irish rock album of the year so far, bar none.

The band closest musically to The Stars is certainly REM. Particularly on the fine opening track "Unfinished Dreaming", Stephen Ryan's vocals

bring Michael Stipe to mind. After that it is the chiming, charming, jangling guitars of Stanley Ebraught and Partisan guest Conor Brady that are most memorable. Check out "What Else Could You Do" at your record shop now for the finest example.

As the man said, if you've got some semblance of taste and you're buying one album this week, make it this one. Van's can wait till next week.

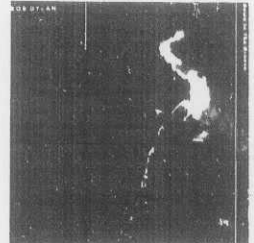
Rating: ★★☆☆

BOB DYLAN: "Down In The Groove" (CBS). The fact that it is now ten years since "Baby Stop Crying" presented Bob Dylan with his last hit single is not cause for undue alarm.

Although Dylan's career has been on the slide since the mid-70s, it is not just the hippy contingent that awaits new product from the master with a reverential, almost pathetic expectation of a "return to form". Inevitably, Dylan has won a steady stream of admirers from the so-called "Live Aid generation", largely attracted by magnificent albums like "Blonde On Blonde" and "Blood On The Tracks" and the recommendations of latter-day rock greats like Bono.

Since 1974's unbelievably brilliant "Blood On The Tracks", Bob has given us several great songs and no great albums. The closest he came was "Infidels" five years ago. Two dodgy releases have followed it; with "Down In The Groove", Bob collects his hat-trick.

It's scarcely possible that any real Dylan fan seriously expected the stamp of greatness from this record, since long before its release rumours abounded that it was so bad and so woefully lacking in new Dylan songs



that the record company was refusing to put it out.

Changes have been made in vain, since Dylan's songwriting is apparently in its worst state ever. "Down In The Groove", however, is still a better album than you might expect, definitely not the worst of his 33 1/3s and not without its highpoints.

Dylan has labelled "Death Is Not The End" (as covered by The Waterboys) as the standout track. For my money it's not a patch on a similar effort like "Every Grain Of Sand" from the "Shot Of Love" '81 LP.

There is something pleasing about the ramshackle nature of the rockier cover versions like "Let's Stick Together" and "Sally Sue Brown" but the highlight is unquestionably the song co-written with Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter, "Silvio". There was always something special about the timing and phrasing Dylan's vocal delivery. It's nice to know he can still cut it every once in a while. Meanwhile the wait for the return of the real Dylan continues. Maybe next time...

Rating: ★★☆☆

Blue note for blue day

AFTER a ten month absence, Tuesday Blue return to a Limerick stage next Thursday, June 30th, appropriately enough at the Blue Note Music Club in The Cartwheel, Todds Bow.

No doubt the band's enforced live absence has left them desperate to get back on stage before the usual partisan Limerick audience. The Cartwheel gig should be one to remember; let's see the place packed to the rafters folks.

The band may have been gone for quite some time but they most certainly have not been forgotten, as has been

evidenced in recent weeks in the Sunday Tribune letters page. Local T.B fans BJ McAteer and Eoin Devereaux defended their honour after an unwarranted attack from Tribune pop hack Michael Ross. Well in, chaps.

Meanwhile with the debut album now definitely titled "Shibumi" and set for an American release on July 27th, I can exclusively reveal that the band will put pen to paper this week to a touring agency deal with Premier Talent, the world's biggest rock agency which numbers among its clients acts like Bowie, U2, The

Pretenders, B.A.D. and Suzanne Vega. Premier, who are an American outfit, will organise all future Tuesday Blue tours.

Hayman Harris, the band's manager, was very enthusiastic about the deal when I spoke to him yesterday.

"It's very unusual for an agency to sign a band without seeing them live", he said, adding "It's all about getting the basics and the foundations right and getting the right names behind us. We want to create a base to work from. We don't want to go in at the bottom rung and slog for six

months."

Meanwhile a four track DJ promotional single will be circulating in the States soon. Featured are "Tunnel Vision", "Cut And Dried", "Tell The Boys" and "Love Me Staple", the last of which has now emerged as the future American single.

As for the home punters, there is still no album release date but the most likely scenario is a single in August followed by the album in September.

In the meantime, catch them at The Cartwheel.

