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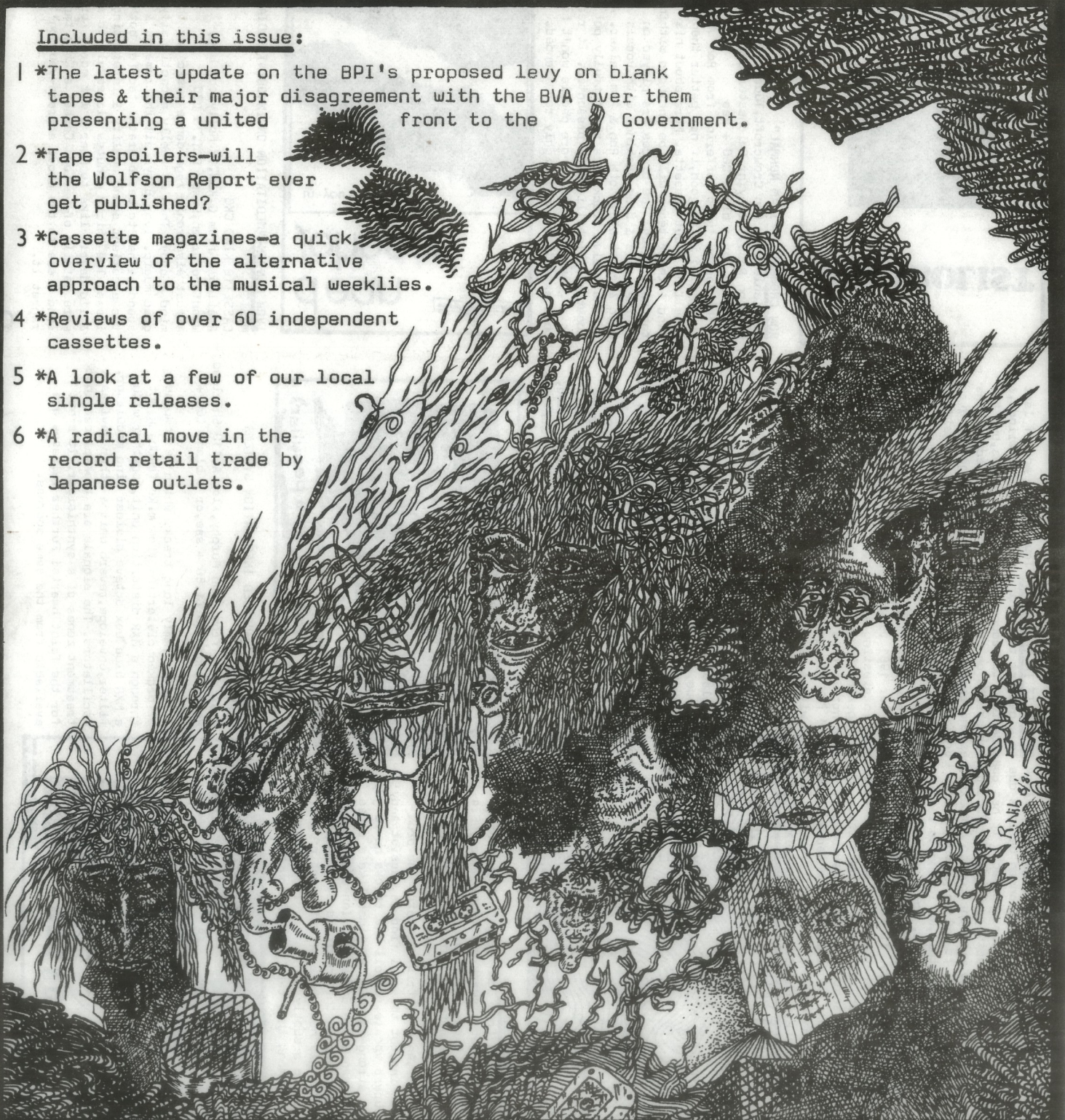
THE INDEPENDENT'S CASSETTE REVIEW MAGAZINE

12

'STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!'

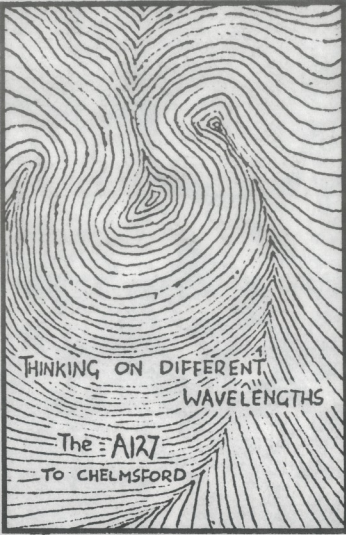
Included in this issue:

- 1 *The latest update on the BPI's proposed levy on blank tapes & their major disagreement with the BVA over them presenting a united front to the Government.
- 2 *Tape spoilers—will the Wolfson Report ever get published?
- 3 *Cassette magazines—a quick overview of the alternative approach to the musical weeklies.
- 4 *Reviews of over 60 independent cassettes.
- 5 *A look at a few of our local single releases.
- 6 *A radical move in the record retail trade by Japanese outlets.



Here we are at last with a slightly new look "STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!" Towards the end of last year we lost a few of our London outlets due to a general tightening of their purses strings, & so we had to rethink our approach. It has been decided to reduce the number of pages, but to 'increase' what we actually have by reducing two sheets on to one. This not only reduces the printing costs, but with the coming postal rates increase, means that it can still go out at second class rate. It all helps when you're working on a shoestring! As it's now impossible for us to go bi-monthly, we intend to remain as a quarterly publication, but to supplement this by free newsletters etc. So if any of you care to send a see off to us, we will forward the various freebies when they come out. Already we have a free "SIIVE" catalogue available to those sending a see. It contains details of all of our 1981 releases which include magazines, newsletters & cassettes. 1982 promises to be most interesting as we have lined up quite a few local tapes for release & the next issue of the magazine is well underway. Anyway, thanks to everyone who sent tapes to be reviewed—if they're not in this issue, they will be in the next. Special thanks to R.M.H.B of "The Replaceable Head" for his excellent cover graphics.

All communications/tapes/articles etc (together with a see if a reply is required) to:
GEORF WALL, 9 GLADSTONE ROAD, SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 8GU, HANTS
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THE A127 TO CHELMSFORD—"THINKING ON DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS"
RASSQUAP PRODUCTS RAS2
 Available from Chris Knowles, 291 Goodwood Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex, RM12 6DD £1 or a blank C60 + see
 The A127 are Chris Knowles & Mike Stout (who was in "What is it?"—see SIIVE no.4 for more details). Although a little low-fi in quality, the duo are firmly committed to their style. They have produced nine basic tracks by multi-tracking various instruments, which include bass, guitars, drums, stylaphone, radio, recorder & vocals. Send a see for a full list of Raesquap cassettes.

THE BOMBAY MICE
 Available from John Bingham, The Palace, Appletongate, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1JY £1 or a blank C60 + see
 A ten minute cassette EP which contains three outstanding tracks. John plays great guitar, Anna Victrix operates the drum machine, but the real find is bassist Andy's superb vocals. On all the tracks he is just so strong-sounding at times like a cross between David Bowie/Neil Innes/Joe Jackson. The power in this music is overwhelming! I certainly need more of this sort of stuff... that's a subtly hint gang. I just can't recommend this tape highly enough. Get it!



KRANG MUSIC—"CODED INFORMATION SYSTEMS"

CASSETTES
 Available from John Murphy, Flat A, 110 Shirland Road, London W9 £1.50 + see, or a blank C60 + see

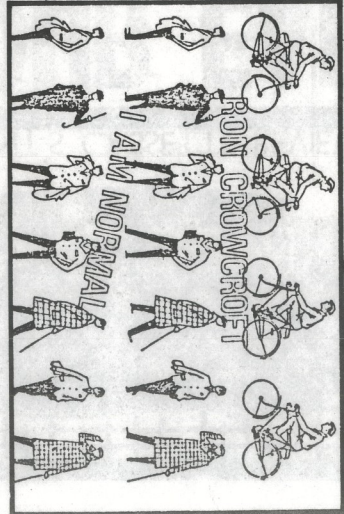
Two extremely long tracks which is composed of broken distortion from mike feedback put through a MXR distortion unit, together with a MXR blue box octave divider ring modulator, filter, envelope, reverb unit & other devices & oscillators. The signals are then placed into treatment zones of a synthesiser. It's not for the faint hearted! Further releases are available from the same address.

METABOLIST

Stagmanaut

METABOLIST—"STAGMANAUT"
CASSETTE KING CK2
 Available from C.Kam, 18 Hollywood Way, Woodford Green, Essex £1.75 C30
 Metabolist's second tape only release (see SIIVE no.1 for details of their first). The track "Crane's" is driven along by a heavy juganaut section of bass & drums over which there is some wonderfully demented chanting. "Ymzog" features some great, abrasive guitar & keyboard playing. "Johnny Loves You" has some really bubbling bass whilst "Quack Backwards" is quite outstanding. This tape must be played loud. Essential listening.

RON CROWCROFT—"I AM NORMAL"
 Available from Ron Crowcroft, Tudor House, 6 Clayton Road, Selsey, nr Chichester, Sussex, PO20 9DB for a blank C60 + see
 The second 'solo' offering from Ron which to my mind is as good, if not better than his excellent debut cassette. More about his band & their tapes will be included within the next issue! The pieces are played on synthesizers & drum machines with vocals sung & recited by both Ron & Pam Walker. All of the twelve tracks are thoughtfully put together & intelligently presented. It really is a great shame that more people won't hear this excellent tape! Highly recommended.



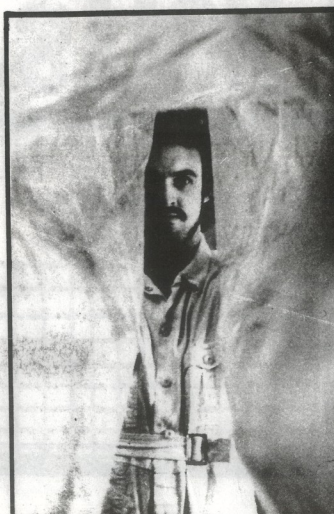
PEARL SOUND

dean Johnson

in - you - end - o

DEAN JOHNSON—"IN-YOU-END-O"
PEARL RECORDS
 Available from Lin Hannah, 79 Kylesmore Drive, Heselwell, Wirral, Merseyside £1 C30
 The duo of Dean Johnson & Kevin Carey storm through a rocking opening number with the superb "Powergame" which is three minutes of excitement. The following track "Another deal" features the great electric guitar work of Mike Watson (do I detect a Roy Buchanan influence there?). The real highlight must be the mammoth "August 1 to 10" which just has to be heard to be believed—it's so good! All of Dean's prolific catalogue is a joy & I do urge further investigation.

IVOR DINCJIN—"MEDITATION ON INNOCENT INDIAN MUSIC"
CASSETTE KING CK3
 Available from C.Kam, 18 Hollywood Way, Woodford Green, Essex £1.75 C30
 Almost electronic raga dance music for the mind & body! This is really exceptionally good music. Ivor plays all instruments & sounds, & has to be congratulated for both the excellent sound quality & interesting ideas. The thirty minutes elapse all too soon & I'd dearly like to hear a lot more. For more details of various Cassettes King tapes send a see to the above address—you won't regret it.



THE CRACKS START TO APPEAR!

A major split has developed between the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) & the British Videogram Association over presenting a united front to the Government over home taping. The BVA has now relegated the tape levy to a "second best option" & believes that a spoiler system will prove more satisfactory. The BPI however believes that spoiler systems for use with records have been researched, tested & rejected on technical grounds.

At the time of writing this (Jan '82), WEA Records, whose labels include Warners, Atlantic, WEA, Elektra & Reprise among others, have upped the prices of their LPs & 12" singles. Since the abolition of Recommended Retail Prices, figures are now quoted in Dealer Price, so it's different to assess just how much punters will have to pay. It's probable that WEA won't long be alone in the mad dash to relieve us of our few remaining green drinking vouchers! Figures for the July-September period last year were up by 11.4% over the 1980 period. Singles were up by 0.8%, LPs by 4.7% & cassettes by a whopping 31.9%. It's the first time for two years that turnover has increased by more than the rate of inflation.

A new Japanese scheme is beginning to catch on which could result in your local record store renting records instead of selling them. The scheme works in a similar way to video hire—the customer pays a deposit, & a returning the record gets a sum of cash back. But whereas the retailer would make more profit renting LPs than if he actually sold them, the record manufacturer would only still make money on the first sale. Already the BPI are beginning to worry! Although they claimed that they couldn't comment on events outside of it's official jurisdiction, a spokesman did say that if record rental was introduced into Britain on a very large scale, it would not be welcome. "It would greatly encourage home-taping", he added...

MICHAEL LAW—"ATTUNEMENT"
SYNFINITY 003

Available from Michael Law, The Chapel House, Perch Hill, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Nr Wells, Somerset £1.60 or a blank C45 + s.e.

This tape is comprised of beautifully played synthesiser music that has an almost classical influence in approach & style. This is best found on "Raga Grandby", when more tapes than ever seem to contain enough synths to make Robert Moog's water, it's a refreshing change to hear something that's tantalising, enchanting & tranquil. Highly recommended. Michael also runs an Independent Synthesiser Recording Network; the idea being to get people to distribute tapes—send a see for more info!

For more details about the various "SIIVE" products send a see to G.WALL.9 GLADSTONE ROAD, SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 8GU, HANTS. We have a free leaflet containing info about tapes/tape copying service/mags/newsletters

DOOF'EXIST

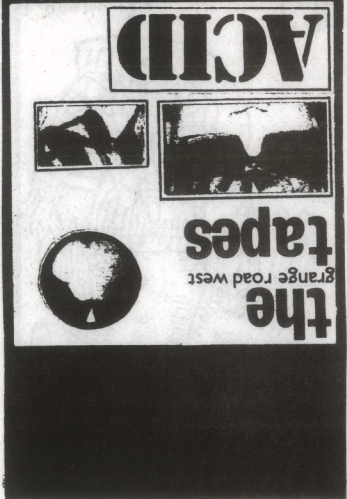
is a 10" read.
PAUL PLATYPUS and MANKY
EMERSON and PHILIP JOHNSON
Help us get it out. SUBSCRIBE!
Send £2 NOW to P.J.5 HOLLINGBOURNE ROAD, NORKIS GREEN, LIVERPOOL 11.
S.A.E. for information L113AS.

THE HUMAN CONDITION—"LIVE AT THE COLLEGIATE THEATRE, 13 SEPTEMBER 1981"
THC 1

Available from most record shops. C60
This unfortunately never approaches the funk dub reggae cross-over of P.I.L.'s "Metal Box". After the exceptional Jah Wobble 12" (Island 12WIPE6701) on which he collaborated with Holgar Czukej, this rushed live cassette of Wobble, Jim Walker (drums) & Animal on sub Levine guitar is a real disappointment. Their radical vocal-less, slightly jazzy, re-moulding of rock proves to be another case of hype marginalisation. A real pity!

THE HUMAN CONDITION
LIVE AT THE COLLEGIATE THEATRE 13 SEPTEMBER 1981
featuring:
Jim Walker
Jah Wobble
Animal

RUSH RELEASE



ACID—"THE GRANGE ROAD WEST TAPES"
ACID PEAR RECORDS BOOTLEG 1
Available from Lin Hannah, 79 Kylamore Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside. £1 C25
Totally unlike any other recording to escape from Pear Records. These songs rock! Performed by David Hughes, Dean Johnson & Simon Flynn, there are no song titles, only a continual string of great songs. Bits sound like John Lennon, others The Jam. Exceptional stuff! Hopefully Pear will put out more of these 'bootleg' tapes in the future. This is twenty minutes of sheer delight. For a list of all the other Pear releases send a see to the address above. Recommended.

VARIOUS—"INSANE MUSIC FOR INSANE MINDS" SANDWICH RECORDS SRT13.

Available from Insane Music, 2 Grand Rue, 6190 Trazegnies, Belgium. £2 C60
Quite simply—this tape is the best! The two contributions from **JAPANESE GENIUS** "Pikah O-Pikah?? (parts 1 & 2)" are both beautifully delicate pieces of music that is somewhat in the mold of an oriental Erik Satie. The longest is only two minutes long & it's all over too soon. Next up are **PSUEDO_CODE** who are outstanding, particularly on the live "Tiny delirium" which was recorded at Beurschouwburg. Their second track "Les murs ont des Oreilles" features some rich organ playing that's a delight. Throughout the whole tape the various keyboard work is nothing less than magnificent. **CORTEX** are my particular favourite. Their songs are majestic, sombre, fragile & lovely. Each of the three tracks has vocals contributed by a different girl. The fine lilting vocals of Isabelle Y on "Cortex C" is the high point. **I SCREAM**'s "Dracustin's revenge" speaks for itself with five minutes of doom laden synthesiser chords performed over a howling wind. It's most eerie & certainly evocative of a horror movie soundtrack. **MECANIQUE VEGETALE**'s live contribution "TV news" is superb. It just bubbles along with synthesisers seemingly deep in conversation. **SUBJECT**'s "Remember (Yoko)" is pure joy. Dancing keyboards & bass are driven by some swing drumming. Lots more goodies here. Essential listening that's highly recommended.

DIE FLIESZOF BAND!

Available from Sabine Weinert, Thomas Wehler, Gartenstr 13, 78 Freiburg, West Germany.
The group have been experimenting for about half a year now & are unfortunately having a lot of trouble with their line-up. This tape is in fact a kind of compilation of what has happened up to now. Although the sound quality is a little low-fi, it's certainly interesting. Sixty minutes of experimental music that veers towards the rock end of the spectrum. Also included within the package is a book of the lyrics together with some photos of the band and a couple of pastiche collations



"STICK IT IN YOUR EAR TAPES!"

PLUG 1 "ROLLS ON & ROCKS OFF!"

(A Southampton compilation tape—volume 1)
C90 £2.50 featuring live recordings from the mixer of Rox Off, Dub'allup, Games to Avoid, Big Brother, The Convertibles, Exploding Seagulls.

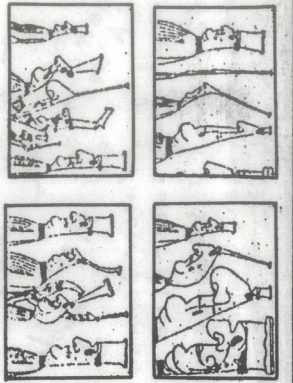
PLUG 2 "MEET ME UNDER THE MECCA BALLROOM!"

(A Southampton compilation tape—volume 2)
C90 £2.50 featuring studio recordings by The Ex Band, The Bob Pearce Blues Band, The New Breedas, 5, 10, & a live recording from the mixer of Ebony Rocker.

PLUG 3 CHRIS GARRETT—"INTIMATE STRANGER"

C46 £2 Ten titles composed, arranged, produced & played by Chris.





THE DAY I JOIN THE GOLF CLUB

CHARLES THOMSON—"THE DAY I JOINED THE GOLF CLUB" (featuring Nic Hughes)

DEAD HIPPIY TAPES DHC6

Available from Dave Arnold, Flat 3B, Anglessea Mansions, 11 Anglessea Terrace, St Leonards, East Sussex. £1.20 C30

Side one is the poetry of Charles Thomson together with the acoustic guitar playing of Nic Hughes, which is similar to those old late 70's recordings made by Roger McGough & Andy Roberts (except that these aren't anywhere as humorous). The second side is just spoken poetry. The quality of sound is a little lacking, but that really is a problem when you try to record this type of stuff.

SIREN

Both of these tapes are available from Dave Clague, 119 Mundessley Road, North Walsham, Norfolk. £3.50 each

"SIREN AT THE CLUB RONDO" (C60) is a mono recording of exceptional quality. It features the vocals of Kevin Coyne, Dave Clague on guitar & Nick Cudworth on piano. I really don't know if it's recorded live, but there's a marvelous air of spontaneity about the whole thing. Kevin Coyne's lyrics are truly outstanding—I think that these are the best that I've heard! "Jack" is a sombre tale about being committed into an institution & is the most moving example of Kevin's work. "I'm alright here" has some wonderful barrel rolling piano.

"SIREN AT ROGER'S & TAT'S" (C40) another live recording which this time has a large number of people performing on it. I believe this cassette is the better of the two for just that reason. It would seem to be a band rehearsal recording. "Blues before sunrise" has some magnificent electric guitar playing whilst "Forked lightning" features some excellent blues runs played on the piano by Nick Cudworth. But it's that Coyne voice that really excites. I strongly urge you to buy all four Siren tapes that are available (see SIVE No 4 for other details etc).

SIREN at THE CLUB RONDO

A Side on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60

What Are You Doing To Me
I'm Alright Here
Blues Before Sunrise
The Alchemist Stone
I'm Alright Here

On Radio
The
Surrender
The
Tapes
The
Surrender
The
Surrender

SIREN at ROGER'S & TAT'S

A AT ROGER'S

Blues Before Sunrise
Forked Lightning
Tat's Nice
Blues Before Sunrise
Blues Before Sunrise

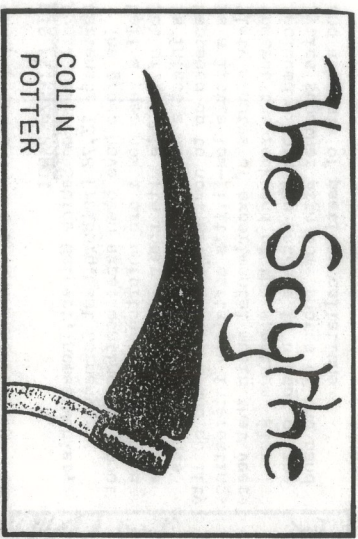
B AT TAT'S

What Are You
Doing To Me
I'm Alright Here
Blues Before Sunrise
Blues Before Sunrise

THE SCARS—"AUTHOR AUTHOR!"

PRE TAPES PRICES
Available from most record shops for somewhere around the £4.50 mark.

An additional two songs on the tape version of this excellent LP. On side one is an uninspiring version of David Essex's Chopper song "Silver dream machine", whilst on side 2 is "She's alive" & this makes it worth getting the tape rather than the record. It's a Scars penned song with some fine guitar work & interchanging vocals over a compelling rhythm section. Great stuff.



COLIN POTTER

COLIN POTTER—"THE SCYTHE"
INTERGRATED CIRCUIT RECORDS IRC 002
Available from Colin Potter, Centre, Main St, Sutton on the Forest, York, YO6 1DP £2 C60
Sixty minutes of immaculate modern pop which certainly could give the Human League a few pointers. Basically a multi-tracked recording of synths, guitars, drum machine & voices the quality of which is outstanding. Of particular note is "Jolney". This tape is so good that I am certainly going to try & ferret out Colin's two other cassettes. I really do recommend this tape most highly so send off today.

BRIAN ASPRO—"MUSIC FOR BBC 2 DOCUMENTARIES"
A superb sideswipe parody of Eno's "Music for Trendies" series of recordings. Aspro has picked his satiric victim with care & taste, & then proceeded to stitch him up with surgical precision. Wickedly accurate, invariably funny, these parodies are frankly brilliant! Even the cassette sleeve is an exact replica of an Eno LP sleeve. It's all done with a simple Bontempi rhythm & a copycat. This tape comes highly recommended especially to all those people who worship Eno.

MUSIC FOR BBC 2 DOCUMENTARIES
BRIAN ASPRO



Copy No. 2. C90
75P TRAZOM 75P

TRAZOM—"ARTHRITIC CONCRETE"
TRAZOM TAPES TRAZ 11
Available from Paul Grady, 3 Bank Street, Platt Bridge, Nr Wigan, Lancs, WN2 5BU 75p C90
Here is the latest in the prolific output of material by the Trazom tape syndicate. This is 90 minutes of banging & scraping. I'm sorry but I really can't find one thing to commend this tape—it hurts just to have to listen to it. A full list of other Trazom products is available from the above address for a see.

