

Album Reviews

Reviewed by various personages.

Thanks to the record companies for sending us the records to review.

BERNIE TORMÉ - TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

If you like Gillan and/or Hendrix, this album is certainly for you. Even if you don't, you can't help but admire the amazing and varied guitar skills on this album. The Hendrixian influence seems to come across particularly in "Turn out the lights", "No Reply", "Oh No!" and "Possession". "Painter Man" adds a nice lighter touch while "Getting There" and Tormé's treatment of "Chelsea Girls" must surely come to be recognized as classics. After leaving Gillan, Tormé now seems to have more freedom in his playing, and what particularly makes this album is the number of varied little riffs he manages to fit in between verse lines and beats. Catch him on tour if you can.

THE RODS - THE RODS

The Rods are a three-piece from New York fronted by vocalist/guitarist David "Rock" Feinstein, an ex-Elf. I think this is one of the best debut albums to come from America that I've heard for years. Dave Feinstein's guitar playing is quite excellent with mind-boggling solos, especially on "Crank It Up". Other highlights are "Power Lover" which has a superbly harmonic ending, "Hungry For Some Love" containing a really neat riff, and "Roll with the Night". The tracks also have a Purple/Rainbow feel; echoes of "Smoke" in "Music Man" and of "Catch The Rainbow" in "Woman", a beautiful track. After their comments in the music press while they were here in England, you may lambast them as sexist but after listening to a track such as "Ace in the Hole", you can't ignore the fact that they play damngood music.

THE BYRON BAND - ON THE ROCKS

On the whole, this band has a good tight sound, steady but in no way tedious. I am particularly impressed by Mel Collins' sax-work which in itself is excellent, but also fits in very well with the rest of the group, without sounding isolated as is sometimes the case with so many sax-orientated groups.

Naturally, in a group called The Byron Band, the main focal point is the development of Dave Byron's vocals. These are strong and come across very well with feeling and expression.

Best track on the album?... "How do you sleep?" which features some good acoustic guitar-work as an alternative to the usual electronic riffs.

I don't think the lyrics are quite up to the Ken Hensley standard but the musicianship more than makes up for this; one interesting fact is that "Bad Girl" seems to be a rock version of "Green Onions" although I do assure you that Fishtail Parkas and Lambrettas do not feature on this album.

Altogether a very promising collection of songs - I hope this is a taste of things to come from Dave Byron & Co.

TANK - FILTH HOUNDS OF HADES

Most people either love or hate Tank depending on your musical taste. To be honest, when I first heard this album, I wasn't too sure of it. However, I played the record over a few times and I really got to like it. Many groups try to copy the Motorhead sound and fail miserably, but Tank come close to this sound and yet have something extra, something which makes this album so amazing. They could be compared to a faster version of the early Motorhead. Best tracks are "Shellshock", "Run Like Hell", "Blood, Guts & Beer", "Turn Your Head Around", "Stormtrooper" and "T.W.D.A.M.O." which contains the great tongue-in-cheek line: "Love is like having your balls dragged across barbed wire! Ouch!"