EXCLUSIVE: Keith Richards, Atomic Rooster, Dr John and .... Steve Bolton

EXCLUSIVE: Tony Palmer and the Oz obscenity trial

A BOLTZ FROM THE BLUE
The Three Commandments of Gonzo Weekly:

1. Art is as important as science and more important than money.

2. There is life after (beyond and before) Pop Idol.

3. Music can and sometimes does change the world.

If you think those three ideas are stupid then you should probably give up reading this magazine now. Otherwise... enjoy.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to another issue of Gonzo Weekly.

Within a couple of hours of the last issue coming out, I received an email from one of our readers. Unfortunately, I was tired, stressed and basically didn’t give it the consideration that I should have done. Mea culpa.

The original email from ‘Zzyes’ reads “I do hope you won’t be turning into a political rag. You will be losing half your audience.”

I’d had a difficult day on top of a difficult week, and so my reply was shorter than perhaps it should have been. I replied “No, not a party political one at any rate.” I now think that it was an interesting question, and one that deserves a more in depth answer.

The short answer is that it depends about what one means by ‘political’. If you mean party political then the simple answer is ‘no’. We will not be endorsing any candidates in next year’s general election except possibly for Bez from the Happy Mondays who is standing for his own political party, the Reality Party, on a pro-permaculture and anti-fracking ticket. Quite apart from the amusing thought of Happy Mondays’ lunatic dancer on Prime Minister’s Question Time, his policies are un-impeachable.

I shall also be supporting my mate Jim, who is standing for Torridge District Council next year, and who is doing his best in his present capacity as town councillor to set up a nature reserve that my colleagues and I will administer as volunteers.

But I don’t think any of the main political parties are going to lose any sleep over these political affiliations of ours.
If you look up the world ‘political’ in a dictionary, one of the definitions is, “Of or relating to views about social relationships that involve power or authority.” If you take this definition of the word ‘political’ then – to a certain extent at least – this magazine has always dealt with such things. However, we deal with them by trying to point out blatant abuses of power and – wherever possible – laugh at them.

However, if you take a broader viewpoint, then as our remit is to write about musicians and artists operating within what was once called the counterculture, then one cannot address the work of artists such as The Pink Fairies, The Deviants, Hawkwind, Mick Farren, Steve Ignorant, Crass or any of a dozen other people whose music and art has been aimed at effecting social change. On this level we are, and will continue to be, political.

But you can even take it on an even broader canvas. Michael des Barres has recently been working with classical composer Sharon Farber on a concerto about 89-year-old Curt Lowens. If I can quote from an article by our old friend Richard Stellar, “‘I want to thank you for being here’ she says determinately, the musicians stopping their tuning in order to hear her. “This concerto was inspired by a man who escaped Nazi persecution and fled with his family to Holland. His name is Curt Lowens and he will be here when we perform. He has saved countless lives and . . . .””

This by any stretch of linguistics is unquestionably political, and it is the sort of story which we will always be publishing. So, in answer to your original question, my friend, the answer is yes/no/probably/maybe/certainly (delete where applicable). Like all the great questions facing mankind, there is no simple answer. I do hope that you are wrong, however, and that covering these subjects will not adversely effect our readers.

But the one thing I would like to do is to apologise for having given you such short thrift the other day. As I said, I was tired, stressed, and it was one of the days that I feel that I have got the cares of the world plonked onto my not very broad shoulders. But there was no excuse for answering your perfectly valid question with a one line answer.

I hope that you forgive me.

Onwards and upwards,

—


**IT’S A LEGAL MATTER BABY**

A lot of the time the pictures that we include in this publication are unique to Gonzo Weekly, and used with the photographer’s permission. However, this magazine is free, and at least at the moment only available online, and so in our opinion we are covered by a recent decision by the European Courts of Justice.

Websites can link to freely available content without the permission of the copyright holder, the European Court of Justice says. The court’s decision came after a dispute in Sweden between journalists and a web company that had posted links on its site to online news articles.

A Swedish court had asked the EU court to consider whether this broke copyright law.

Some of the pictures in this magazine are hotlinked to other websites where they are freely available. It is our opinion that we are covered by this ruling. So there!

Of course if someone objects to our using their material we will be good fellows and take it down, unless (and this is a big unless) we feel that it is not in the public interest to comply. But normally we shall not stand on ceremony. If you want to read more about this decision go to:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-26187730
THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that’s fit to print

This is quite simply the best magazine you will ever find that is edited by a mad bloke (and his small orange cat), and produced from a tumbledown potato shed on the outskirts of a tiny village that nobody's heard of in North Devon. The fact that it is published with Gonzo Multimedia - probably the grooviest record company in the known universe - is merely an added bonus.

NAMING THOSE RESPONSIBLE

This issue was put together by me and Captain Frunobulax the Magnificent, (who is, in case you didn't know, an insane orange kitten on the verge of adulthood) ably assisted by:

Corinna Downes,
(Sub Editor, and my lovely wife)
Graham Inglis,
(Columnist, Staff writer, Hawkwind nut)
Bart Lancia,
(My favourite roving reporter)
Thom the World Poet,
(Bard in residence)
C.J. Stone,
(Columnist, commentator and all round good egg)
Kev Rowland,
(Kiwi Reviewer)
Lesley Madigan,
(Photographer par excellence)
Douglas Harr,
(Staff writer, columnist)
Jessica Taylor,
( PA and laughing at drunk pop stars)

Richard Freeman,
(Scary stuff)
Dave McMann,
(He ain't nothing but a) Newshound-dog
Orrin Hare,
(Sybarite and literary bon viveur)
Mark Raines,
(Cartoonist)
Davey Curtis,
(tales from the north)
Jon Pertwee
(Pop Culture memorabilia)
Dean Phillips
(The House Wally)
Rob Ayling
(The Grande Fromage, of whom we are all in awe)
and Peter McAdam
(McDada in residence)

This is the nearest that you are ever going to get to a posh weekend colour supplement from the Gonzo Daily team. Each week we shall go through the best bits of the week before, and if there aren't any we shall make some up, or simply make our excuses and leave (you can tell the editor once did contract work at the News of the World can't ya?)

This weekly magazine is free, and will remain so. It is published by Gonzo Multimedia in conjunction with CFZ Publications, or is it the other way round? We're actually not that sure. Contact us with bribes and free stuff:

Jonathan Downes,
Editor: Gonzo Daily (Music and More)
Editor: Gonzo Weekly magazine
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You will have certainly noticed that it has all changed. In fact there is no certainly about it. But if you haven’t noticed I would like to know what you have been smoking, and can I have a large packet of it please.

Yes. It has indeed all changed. Basically I have been wanting to upgrade the visuals of the magazine for some time, but now the technology to do what I have wanted to do for yonks has finally become within our budget (i.e free) and we are going to give it a go.

If things don’t work out we can still go back to the previous method of putting the magazine together, and we shall still be utilising those jolly nice fellows at MailChimp in order to send out the subscriber notifications.

In fact, now is an even better time than usual to subscribe because, not only is it FREE (yes, Oxford English Dictionary free, not yer usual publisher free which means that we sell all the mailing list emails that we garner to a company trying to flog Viagra and/or Double Glazing. No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. Not only is it FREE but there will be some exclusive offers for folk who avail themselves of them, so make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY.
BACK IN THE JUGGALO AGANE

Court documents about the recent Juggalo attack have been revealed, suggesting that an Insane Clown Posse diss was the reason behind the brutal incident. Spin reveals that the papers charging Paul Martin Hurst, 33, and Cary Lee Edwards, 35, with the attack on Zachary Swanson, 31, say that the Insane Clown Posse tattoo removal “was in an attempt to remove a tattoo that Edwards did not believe that Swanson earned.” Swanson apparently “disrespected” Insane Clown Posse, leading to the attack, which saw his nose and face fractured, 11 of his ribs broken, his liver lacerated and his brain to bleed. A Juggalo is the name for a fan of Insane Clown Posse. Hurst and Edwards have been charged with attempted first and second degree murder, first and second degree assault, reckless endangerment, and assault with a deadly weapon. Swanson has now had to have his arm amputated below the elbow because of the botched tattoo removal.

LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY FESTIVAL

Radiohead’s Thom Yorke reportedly played a DJ set to just eight people at Cornish festival Leopallooza over the weekend. The festival dubs itself “the best house party in a field” but did not advertise Yorke’s appearance prior to the festival on Saturday night (August 2). Yorke regularly plays DJ sets around the world and reportedly took to the decks on Saturday night in the backstage area of the festival. The Evening Standard reports that just eight people were present while he played. “He’s probably the most influential artist of the past decade and here he is prepping to play to half a dozen drunk hippies,” one onlooker at the Bude event is quoted saying. It is claimed that Yorke was then seen barn dancing with a group of festival-goers, “many of whom had no idea who he was.”

RUFUS vs MAD DONNA AND CHUM

Rufus Wainwright had some pointed words about Miley Cyrus and Madonna’s surprise collaboration at the former’s MTV Unplugged performance in January, telling The Guardian it was “one of the most horrifying things I’ve seen in my life.” “Done up in rhinestone cowboy duds, Cyrus and Madonna busted out a mashup of each other’s songs; “Don’t Tell Me” from Madge’s 2000 album Music and Cyrus’ chart-topper “We Can’t Stop” off her 2013 LP Bangerz. While the two tracks lent themselves well to each other, Rufus Wainwright said of the performance: “It was really, I don’t know, the overtones were way undertoned [laughs]. I just need a little bit more in my life than that. “Despite the criticism, Wainwright did compliment Cyrus’ vocal talents and offered a reasonable take on how her influence and popularity could affect younger kids. “I have a daughter and she’s 3 so I’m beginning to develop more protective instincts concerning her chastity and so forth, but on the other hand I do feel like kids today are incredibly smart,” Wainwright said. “They have a sensibility that is about survival and lasting. Growing up with this amount of negative energy about the environment and politics and pornography or whatever, you’ve got to be really smart to survive. I’m into challenges and these kids are being challenged.”

BLURING THE TRUTH

Speaking to Danielle Perry on the Evening Show, Dave Rowntree was asked if there would be any more Blur live dates: “I hope so, nobody’s ruled it out, there’s nothing in the diary at the moment. But if you asked anybody, they would say that the shows from the last three years have been some of the best shows we’ve ever done. From our perspective, it keeps getting better and better. We get asked this question in every interview, but if there was something to say, we’d just say it. None of us have the patience to be telling a lie for years on end! I think there’s also this idea that we have some kind of secret master plan we’re not telling anyone about. And we’re going to spring it on them when the time is right. If only!”

MORRISSEY: GOD BLESS SOCIAL MEDIA

In another of his regular statements published via fan site True To You, the singer has claimed that a number of fan-made videos for the title track of his new album World Peace Is None Of Your Business are more relevant than anything than his current record label, Harvest, could produce. He writes: “I am indebted to three sources that have placed their videos fully understand the intent of the song, and I am relieved that these films exist. Yes, a similar document ought to have been harvested by the record label, but please understand that the pop or rock industry can be as dedicated to perpetuating public deception as the world of politics itself. God bless social media!” Going on to criticise Britain, the United Nations and “political stupidity and greed”, Morrissey then went on to praise social media for allowing the people to have a voice and to slate Fox News and the BBC: “The struggle for the airwaves remains difficult. Yet, I am writing this to you now, and you are reading it.”

MY ROCK RUNEY NAIRD

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MY ROCK RUNEY NAIRD
"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives will somehow work for the benefit of all."

John Maynard Keynes
doesn’t have to be a genius to know the answer to that one! All in all there are too many pricks in Whitehall!

- **THE GIRLS AND THE DOGS** Anais Gallagher, daughter of Noel Gallagher, has appealed to the Finnish dog breeders who have named their kennel and puppies after Oasis songs to stop breeding dogs. The 14-year-old, who was recently hired to co-host Friday Download on children’s channel CBBC, sent a letter to the breeders in collaboration with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). In it, she writes about her concerns over the health of selectively bred dogs, citing her own Boston Terrier’s health problems. She also expresses concern over the number of unwanted dogs that cannot be homed. She asks the breeders to cease their activities. “You can be a rock’n’roll star for dogs by spaying and neutering your Labrador retrievers and promoting adoption instead,” she writes. She also tells the kennel’s owner, Ville Kormilainen, that her favourite Oasis album is ‘Definitely Maybe’. Read on...

- **CLIFF, STING AND LLOYD-WEBBER GIVE POLITICAL ADVICE.** Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones, Bryan Ferry, David Gilmour, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Cliff Richard and Sting are among a list of more than 200 famous faces who have signed an open letter urging Scottish voters to keep Scotland as part of the United Kingdom. An independence referendum will be held on September 18 which could see Scotland break away from the rest of the UK. The letter, which was organised by historians Dan Snow and Tom Holland, aims to let people in Scotland know that those who have endorsed the message “value the bond of citizenship” with those north of the border. The letter is part of the Let’s Stay Together campaign that aims to give a voice to those who are not allowed to vote in the referendum. A video including some of the figures involved in the campaign, a list that also includes musicians Bryan Ferry, David Gilmour, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cliff Richard, can be seen above. Read on...

- **IT’S HAMMER TIME** This picture has been circulated around various progressive rock pages on Facebook. Those of us of a certain age will know exactly what it means, those of you who don’t, shame on ya! But what of the answer? Well, I think that one

---

"At midnight, all the agents and superhuman crew go out and round up everyone who knows more than they do."
— Desolation Row by Bob Dylan
"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter
THE LAST WEEK AT GONZO DAILY

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

IF YOU ARE NOT A PART OF THE SOLUTION, YOU ARE A PART OF THE PROBLEM.

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER

Two types of people visit rhino in the wild

The strong and courageous take a camera
The weak and cowardly take a gun

What sort of person are you?

Celebrate wildlife on World Wildlife Day, don't shoot it.
The news from the Daevid Allen camp is generally pretty good this week.

The latest bulletin appeared last weekend just after we went to press, and once again was posted on the Daevid Alien Facebook page:

“Daevid is now home after the successful operation to remove the skin cancers from his chest and graft some skin from his leg to help repair the area. Just as well he’s not a very hairy chap.

So hopefully a nice quiet couple of weeks recovery from all that before the radiation therapy begins on 13th August.

Phew! It’s sometimes hard being a being isn’t it.”

I am sure you will all join with us in sending your prayers, good wishes and healing vibes to Daevid who is an extraordinary and much loved man.
We received a nice message from the Galahad camp this week. It explained the rather cryptic but undeniably groovy record cover which appeared in our in-box a few weeks ago and which we dutifully reproduced in these hallowed pages. It is, as we had surmised, the cover for their third and final EP release of 2014, but the band went on to give more details about this singular record.

Here is the front cover for our third and final EP release of 2014. Mein Herz Brennt will be available from October 2014, date TBC.

This release will contain four different and varied versions of the Rammstein classic.

As most people know we don't generally record or perform cover versions but we just fancied recording one for a change as a bit of fun, plus this track a little less obvious than what many people may thing we might attempt!

We had tremendous fun in the studio recording it and hope many of you will like listening to it too! :-)

the week that's past
Michael des Barres has been busy again this week, appearing chairing a question and answer session after the premier of Rachel Lichtam and Andrew Sandoval's new film, *Boyce & Hart: The Guys Who Wrote 'Em*. This is a feature length documentary about songwriting duo Tommy Boyce & Bobby Hart. Their story - narrated by Bobby Hart - is told through rare archival films and images.

According to Allison Anders, writing on Michael’s Facebook page, it was a real thrill for the fans. Michael hosted the amazing Q&A with the film-makers and Bobby Hart to a stellar audience.

“Keith Allison was there, Kim Fowley was there, Suzi Jane Hokum, Don Bolles, Legs McNeil, Pamela Des Barres, Ileana Douglas, Susanna Hoffs was there, and so many amazing people and friends and DKTR die hards.”
This weekend sees the Rebellion Punk Festival in Blackpool.

It has an amazing line-up by anyone’s standards, with Killing Joke and Stiff Little Fingers topping the bill, but from our point of view the most important act is, of course, Steve Ignorant’s Slice of Life. A little bird tells me that the first Slice of Life album will be coming out later in the year, presumably on Steve’s own label Dimlo.

However, Gonzo are releasing a new edition of the DVD and CD of the Last Supper show at Shepherd’s Bush Empire in 2011, with bespoke artwork by one of anarcho punk’s newest sleeve designers.

Okay, it’s by me, and I need to thank Photoshop more than anything, but I have to say it was a great buzz to be designing a cover for someone I have been following now for over 30 years.

Those of you interested in such things should be aware that the lovely Carol Hodge aka Miss Crystal Grenade will be appearing at the Weird Weekend in Hartland, North Devon next weekend.
Once again, my favourite roving reporter Bart Lancia has been a busy little fellow this week. His first story concerns my favourite chanteuse of the past 40 years, Marianne Faithfull. Apparently, she “said in a recent interview that her boyfriend at the time, a heroin dealer named Jean de Breteuil, was responsible for Doors frontman Jim Morrison’s death in the summer of 1971. The singer recalled a sense of foreboding when Breteuil told her he intended to visit the Doors frontman so she decided to stay at their hotel and take barbiturates. "He went to see Jim Morrison and killed him," Faithfull told Mojo. "I mean, I'm sure it was an accident. Poor bastard. The smack was too strong? Yeah. And he died. And I didn't know anything about this. Anyway, everybody connected to the death of this poor guy is dead now. Except me."


His next story concerns one of my favourite bands of all time: “As the Who ready themselves for their 50th anniversary tour, the group is asking fans worldwide to share rare and lost recordings, forgotten radio and TV performances, fan-shot footage from concerts, bootleg recordings, demos, rare photos and memorabilia.”


Bart asks whether I have anything that might interest him. Bartholomew, really! Do I look like the sort of person who would have bootlegs? On second thoughts, don’t answer that question.

Portobello Shuffle CDs still at special low price of £5.00 each, 1 x CD inc. p&p = UK £6.80; Mainland Europe £8.90; USA £9.95; Rest of the World, contact Rich Deakin for postage price.

arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk

I have already used the journalistic licence claiming that a little bird has whispered interesting information in my ear, but it’s half-past midnight and I truly cannot think of another simile that fits the bill.

Another little bird, albeit of a different species – being pink and having little wings – has told me that the mighty Pink Fairies are touring this autumn, and we hope to have tour dates and more information for you soon.

The world is in need of the Pink Fairies – the ultimate people’s band – now more than ever since they started. It is a great pity that dear Mick Farren cannot be with them, propping up the bar, shouting slogans at all and sundry, and generally haranguing the audience.

Oh yes, I think that with hindsight that it wasn’t a little bird at all but a pink fairy.
Back in the summer of 1990 I paid my only visit to Fairport Convention’s fantastic festival at Cropredy in Oxfordshire.

It is one of the most interesting and eclectic of British festivals, and although it started out as a folk festival, it now boasts a varied and always entertaining line up from musicians of many different styles and ethnic backgrounds.

This year Cropredy featured The Waterboys, The Wonderstuff and Al Stewart amongst others. Steve Hackett wrote on his Facebook page:

“I really enjoyed Cropredy yesterday. The festival had a great vibe, the band played a blinding set and the audience were brilliant. Thanks to Dave Pegg and his team, plus everyone who was there. It was a fantastic day! Warmest wishes to all, Steve”

Earlier today Judy Dyble wrote this on her Facebook page:

“Please excuse the ditherness of today, I am not quite with it and I will be off back to that Cropredy Festival in a little while. Not taking Betty back as she was wonderful yesterday and brilliantly well behaved, but looks a bit shattered today. And as I’ll be staying to the end today, she’s best left at home, it’s all a bit confusing for her in the dark.”

Betty is, by the way, her latest in a long line of rescued greyhounds.

My festival days are basically over, but I think I could be persuaded to make an exception for Cropredy one year. It is the sort of event that Corinna and I would enjoy going to, and I think one year we shall have to make the effort.

the week that’s past
A man has successfully pushed a Brussels sprout up Mount Snowdon using his nose.

It took Stuart Kettell, who's from the West Midlands, three days to reach the 1,085m (3,560ft) peak. The 49-year-old had undertaken the strange feat to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. He had practiced by pushing a sprout around his garden. He admitted people would think he was strange, saying: ‘People definitely think I’m mad, and I’m beginning to think it myself.’

http://metro.co.uk/2014/08/03/man-pushes-brussels-sprout-up-mount-snowdon-using-nose-and-its-all-for-charity-4820002/
Strange Fruit, Miskin’s Radio’s home of alternative, off-the-wall and otherwise generally strange sounds is looking for a co-presenter. This is not a paid job, but would give the lucky individual the chance to present two hour shows of music generally ignored by radio, and broadcast them twice a month to be heard by Miskin Radio’s audience online and then archived on Gonzo Multimedia’s website, where their audience would devour them. Radio experience would be useful, but isn’t necessary. The ideal candidate would be able to come to our Dartford studios, be trained and begin work when ready. Alternatively, anyone capable of self-producing and Dropboxing shows will be considered. Fame and wealth are unlikely but the chance to indulge your most maverick musical tastes knows few limits in this job. In the first instance email Neil Nixon, nlnxn@aol.com to express an interest. Also check out our shows on Gonzo Multimedia’s web radio page and Miskin Radio’s own site – www.miskinradio.co.uk
Strange Fruit is a unique two-hour radio show exploring the world of underground, strange and generally neglected music. All shows are themed and all shows set out to give the most hardened of sound-hounds some new delight to sample.

The show is also unique in providing homework for undergraduate students on North West Kent College’s Foundation Degree in Professional Writing (who dig up many of the odd facts featured in the links between tracks).

Strange Fruit presenter Neil Nixon is currently working on a book about rare albums for Gonzo Multimedia.

The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.

STRANGE FRUIT 83 - 20-07-14

Peter Wyngarde: Come In
Pinhead Circus: Carefree Mental Daze
ZZ Top: It’s too Easy Manana
Olga Bell: Krasnodar Krai
Primal Scream: Velocity Girl
Bogshed: Run to the Temple
Half Man Half Biscuit: I Hate Nerys Hughes (From the Heart)
Kenny Everett: Conscientious Objector Don’t you Know
Rajput and Sepoy: Flower Power Sitar
Terry Reid: Tinker Taylor
The Open Mind: Magic Potion
Warhorse: Solitude
Honeyroot: Sound Echo Location
Andy Capp: Pop-a-Top
Pat Boone: No More Mr Nice Guy
British Sea Power: Remember Me
Frank Sinatra: All or Nothing
Olga Bell: Stavropol Krai
The Dentists: Peppermint Dreams
Episode Four: Strike up Matches
Benny Profane: Hang Fire
Flaming Lips: One Million Billionth of a Millisecond on a Sunday Morning
Honeyroot: Love Will Tear us Apart
The Sensational Alex Harvey Band: Long Haired Music
Medusa: Transient Amplitude
Olga Bell: Khabarovsky Krai

Listen Here

the week that’s past
Greece where, for some reason known only to himself, Tim believes they worship cows. He also postulates flatulent bees. Then for some other unknown reason they are smearing each other over with bacon fat and talking even more weird nonsense than ever. What’s not to like?

And again this week we have a playlist:

1: Sirtos Chaniotkos - Mikis Theodorakis
2: Didi Wah Didi - Bo Didley
3: Georgie Buck - Toumani Diabati
4: The Sun Explodes - Hank Dogs
5: Click Clack (live) - Captain Beefheart
6: Nothing for Free - Will Killeen
7: And Then I Just Drifted Away - Spectrum
8: Bullocky Bill and 9: Footprints on the Dashboard - The Celebrated Knackers and Knockers
10: Bored Housewife - The Androids of Mu
11: Wake Up - Rage Against the Machine
12: Life Stinks - Pere Ubu
13: White Bear Chant - Jaki Windmill
14: Give Peace a Chance - Plastic Ono Band

Gonzo Web Radio is chuffed to bits to present a remarkable new radio show put together by none other than the lovely Jaki Windmill and the irrepressible Tim Rundall. An anarchic mixture of music, politics, current affairs and all sorts of other things really wrapped in a surreal miasma of post-psychedelic credibility. Sounds good? You bit sweet pondos it does.

Tim approached me some weeks ago. Apparently before he died Mick Farren told him about Gonzo Web Radio and some of the plans Rob and I had tentatively began to put together. Would we like to broadcast some of the stuff he had recorded with Mick?

I’ve heard some silly questions in my time, but this takes the biscuit. Of course we would. Mick Farren was one of my greatest heroes, and the fact that he took an interest in this magazine and helped me steer it into the direction in which it is currently sailing, meant that dear Tim’s question was completely superfluous.

So I waited to see what would happen. Soon after that I got approached by Jaki. Apparently she has been co-hosting a radio show broadcast from a conceptual submarine together with Tim for some time. Would we like a whole slew of brand new shows for Gonzo Web Radio? Of course we would. This week the submarine is in
I first came across Friday Night Progressive totally by accident, but I soon found myself beguiled by the style and taste of presenter M Destiny who presents a weekly two-hour show showcasing all sorts of progressive music that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else. This is surely a man after my own heart. I also very much approve of the way that it is the hub of a whole community of artists, musicians, and collaborators. I hope that you enjoy them as much as I do. Welcome aboard, chaps.

Hello, I am M Destiny host of Friday Night Progressive. You will find it to be an incredible independent internet broadcast show. But it’s more than that. We tend to boast that the musicians played on FNP are above the status quo. This includes the multi-instrumentalist and the educated musician. We tend to shy away from computer generated creations and rely on talent using musical instruments and steer this talent for purposes of sheer inspirational indulgence. It is only in the FNP chat room where you will find the most talented musicians packed at one time into such an honored space.

ARTISTS:
Olivier Contat Project
http://soundcloud.com/olivkeys/teaser-oc-project
Hellmut Hattler
http://www.facebook.com/HELLMUT.HATTLER
Diatessaron
http://www.facebook.com/diatessaronband
Faint Signal
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faint-Signal/261440247282353
The Fierce and the Dead
http://www.facebook.com/groups/fierceandthedead/
A Secret River
http://www.facebook.com/asecretriver
Hibernal
http://www.facebook.com/hibernalband
The Fierce Project with Tommy Stephenson
http://www.facebook.com/thefierceproject
Bill Berends
http://www.facebook.com/Mastermindband
Alex Frias
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Innprata-ALex-Frias-Solo/451323614969309

Backdrop art by: Greg P Onychuk — with Tommy Stephenson, Hellmut Hattler, Simon Tj, Henri Eisenbaum, ALex FriAs, John Bergstrand, Matt Stevens and Bill Berends.

Drew was an American jazz pianist. His music is known for its hard-swinging bluesy sound and large, two-handed rooty chords contrasting with fast runs. The son of jazz pianist Kenny Drew, he did not credit his father as an influence. His initial study was in classical music with his mother and grandmother. In his teens he became interested in jazz and pop, but initially worked in funk bands. Later he went into jazz piano and in 1990 won the Great American Jazz Piano competition in Jacksonville, Florida. Drew continued to perform jazz, but he also performed some chamber music. His style has some similarities to his father's, but is different enough to generally avoid comparison, and was considered the more eclectic of the two men.

Drew attended Iona College in New Rochelle, NY for a period during 1977 to 1978. There, he became pianist for the Iona College Singers, an entertainment troop promoting the College's name and goodwill among local high schools, retirement homes and the like in the Northeast region of the USA.

Drew cited Thelonious Monk as an influence and like Monk often recorded (and performed) solo.

Chapman Pincher
(1914-2014)

The veteran investigative journalist, Harry Chapman Pincher, known for unearthing military secrets, has died aged 100.

For more than 30 years, Pincher was the defence and science correspondent for the Daily Express - then Britain's biggest-selling daily.

He went on to publish several books alleging that MI5 had been penetrated at the highest levels by the Soviets. Pincher celebrated his 100th birthday last March.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, Pincher's son, Michael, said his father had died "of old age" and had faced death with "no regrets, no fear and no expectation".

The post described Pincher as "a journalist, author, fisherman, shot and scourge of politicians of all hues". His last joke, said Michael, was "tell them I'm out of scoops".

THOSE WE HAVE LOST
In 1973, Stone’s warehouse worker and occasional front desk receptionist, Harry Wayne “KC” Casey and TK’s budding recording studio engineer Richard Finch were introduced by Stone and began collaborating on writing and performing songs, with Stone allowing them to experiment in the recording studio after hours.

As KC and the Sunshine Band, they released a string of hits including "Get Down Tonight", "That's The Way I Like It" and "Shake Your Booty", all on Stone's TK label.

The band had five number one pop singles, platinum albums, won three Grammys and one American Music Award. Prior to the success of KC and the Sunshine Band, Casey and Finch wrote and produced the number one hit, "Rock Your Baby" by George McCrae, and his follow-ups. "Rock Your Baby" is credited as being the very first disco hit record.

Stone's companies produced numerous other hits during the 1970s, including Beginning of the End’s "Funky Nassau" (on Alston), Latimore’s "Let's Straighten It Out" (on Glades), Anita Ward’s "Ring My Bell" (on Juana), Little Beaver’s "Party Down" and Gwen McCrae’s "Rockin’ Chair" (both on Cat), Peter Brown’s "Do Ya Wanna Get Funky With Me" (on Drive), and Bobby Caldwell's "What You Won't Do for Love" (on Clouds).

Henry Stone (1921 - 2014)

Stone was an American record company executive and producer whose career spanned the era from R&B in the early 1950s through the disco boom of the 1970s to the 2010s. He was best known as co-owner and president of TK Records, but reportedly set up over 100 record labels, and was responsible for over 100 million record sales across the world.

He was described as "an acute businessman who always made sure that contracts and publishing agreements were written in his favor."

In 1972, Stone heard from Jerry Wexler that Atlantic was going to merge with Warner Bros. Records and Elektra, handle its own distribution, and no longer use Tone.

At that point, he decided to concentrate on recording and manufacturing his own records, forming another new record company, TK Records with Alaimo (named after studio owner Terry Kane), based in Hialeah, with which he had his greatest success.

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Now, I don't know whether this is a good idea, a bad idea, or just an idea, but - as I believe you know - this magazine is put out each week on a budget of £25, and is free. It will remain free, but I would like to be able to generate some income so I can pay our contributing writers. So, 'why not flog Gonzo Weekly T Shirts?' I thought. 'Why not', I answered...

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/gonzoweekly
Artist Hugh Hopper  
Title Volume 2 Franglo Band  
Cat No. HST241CD  
Label Gonzo

Hugh Hopper started his musical career in 1963 as the bass player with the Daevid Allen Trio alongside drummer Robert Wyatt. There were few other free jazz bands of the era with such a stellar line-up. Unlike other legendary ensembles such as The Crucial Three (a Liverpool band from 1977 which featured three musicians who were to go on to enormous success) the Daevid Allen Trio actually played gigs and made recordings. All three members ended up in Soft Machine, which together with Pink Floyd was the ‘house band’ of the burgeoning ‘Underground’ movement which tried so hard to turn British cultural mores upside down for a few years in the latter half of the 1960s. (Hopper and Wyatt had also been in another legendary Canterbury band called The Wilde Flowers). Hopper stayed with Soft Machine (for whom he was initially the group’s road manager) until 1973 playing at least one session with Syd Barrett along the way.

During his tenure the band developed from a psychedelic pop group to an instrumental jazz rock fusion band, all the time driven by the lyrical bass playing of Hugh Hopper.

After leaving the band he worked with many pillars of the jazz rock fusion scene such as: Isotope, Gilgamesh, Stomu Yamashta and Carla Bley. He also formed some co-operative bands with Elton Dean who had also been in Soft Machine.

This is the second of a ten part series compiled by Michael King, a Canadian Hugh Hopper Scholar. He writes: "My first encounter with the music of Hugh Colin Hopper backdates to the summer of 1976. While visiting a friend I was intentional played a record titled Volume Two from a British rock group about whom I knew little, The Soft Machine. The experience was staggering and prompted a radical reappraisal for the conventions I had been conditioned to accept as ‘Progressive’. Once smitten I undertook to follow and purchase a spate of seriously inventive record albums that Hugh Hopper released and appeared on, namely; Hoppertunity Box, Rogue Element, Soft Heap, Cruel But Fair and Two Rainbows Daily. Throughout these works I found Hugh’s textural bass guitar by turns anchored and animated the music with ample good taste. Here was a rarefied musician who avoided overplaying his instrument in favour of approaches reflecting his personal musical Zen".

Technically, by processing his bass guitar with fuzz box, flanger, wha-wha, octave pedal effects, his use of tapes loops, and latterly computer programming, Hugh
constructed multilayer soundscapes with great attention to detail. His creative template embraced aesthetics well beyond the orthodox roles assigned to the bass guitar and its practitioner. As example, Hugh cleverly adapted the time altering effects of the repetitive tapes loops he was creating with two tape recorders in the early sixties - to his bass guitar - by playing such repeating patterns in real time. Furthermore, minimalist mutations and modularity often characterize the rhythmic, harmonic, melodic foundations of Hugh’s musical compositions (many displaying melody lines of uncommon length). These aspects, alongside a brilliant capacity to freely improvise, (dynamically from a whisper to a roar) distingush Hugh Hopper as a consummate musician of great standing, one who thrived in myriad musical settings*.

This ten part series is to compliment an heretofore large body of work (over sixty titles) by presenting previously unreleased concert and studio recordings, with the focus on Hugh’s compositions as performed by groups under his leadership.

This is one of those exquisite records that somehow slipped through the gaps of public consciousness at the time. But now its back, and you have the chance to revel in a warm bath of psychedelic weirdness.

**Artist Clearlight**  
**Title Clearlight Visions**  
**Cat No. HST211CD**  
**Label Gonzo**

CYRILLES VERDEAUX, native of France, was born July 31, 1949 in Paris. In 1963 at the age of 14, he entered the prestigious French National Conservatory of Music in Paris studying composition, harmony, and piano. From 1966 to 1968 he won first place in student composition three successive times. During the student uprisings of 1968 he was dismissed from the Conservatory for his revolutionary activities.

He then attended the Nice Conservatory earning a Masters diploma, returning to Paris to form the band Babylone with guitarist Christian Boule.

In 1975 Virgin Records released the first album of Cyrille Verdeaux compositions titled CLEARLIGHT SYMPHONY. Clearlight became the first French progressive rock band signed to a major British record label. Gathering accolades for its unique compositions and keyboard stylings, the music spanned from classical romanticism to lush experimentation. Primarily psychedelic, but also serving as a forerunner of new age music, the album’s musical style manages to blend seemingly contrary elements: the symphonic rock concept is flexible enough to permit extensive jamming in both rock and jazz fusion styles. Clearlight Symphony does not officially have an artist name, but is now regarded as the first album by Clearlight who adopted the name later that year, after briefly using the name Delired Camelon Family. Side one features group member Cyrille Verdeaux and three members of Gong; side two features the group that would become Delired Chameleon Family (Clearlight). Neither group is explicitly named as the artist.

The album was recorded for Virgin Records in 1973 (and probably completed in 1974), after the label’s first and highly successful release, Tubular Bells (1973) by Mike Oldfield, and was one of several subsequent Virgin albums that attempted to copy Tubular Bells’ format of long pieces in a symphonic progressive rock style; in this case, exactly copying its structure of two pieces titled "part one" and "part two". Since the title Tubular Bells was initially better known to the general public than the name of its artist, Virgin Records decided that Clearlight Symphony would be a one-off album project with a title, but no artist name.

Clearlight has rarely performed live. In 1975, Virgin sent a variation of the Forever Blowing Bubbles band on the road supporting Gong, but it broke up soon afterwards following Verdeaux’s decision not to relocate to England as Virgin insisted he did - which ended his relationship with the label.

In April 1978, a new version of the band was unveiled at the Olympia in Paris, a performance intended to be followed by a proper tour to promote Clearlight Visions but lack of interest from promoters dictated otherwise. In the 1980s, the name was largely retired as Verdeaux concentrated on albums released under his own name, although there was another one-off performance at an electronic music festival in 1988 featuring Verdeaux and regular collaborators Christian Boulé and Tim Blake. In the 1990s, Verdeaux began recording under the Clearlight name again.

Thirty seven years on Clearlight Visions is clearly a project of which Cyril is very proud. He told me: “…it was recorded in 1977 and this is my first album where I was 100% producing, recording, mixing...it was fun to be the decisions taker in the recording studio...It has been chosen also to be in the 100 best prog albums for the Billboard magazine guys.
WHO GONZO? WHY GONZO? WHAT GONZO?

What? You don't know who Hunter Thompson is/was/might have been/will be? Without Hunter Thompson there would be no Gonzo Multimedia. It would have been completely different and that would have been an unforgivable pity. So here is:

- A potted history of his life and works
- Rob Ayling explains why he called his company 'Gonzo'

C.J.Stone suggested that as well as explaining Gonzo to those wot don't understand, we should do a weekly quote from the great man himself. So here goes:

"'Crazy' is a term of art; 'Insane' is a term of law. Remember that, and you will save yourself a lot of trouble."

Hunter S. Thompson

This is all very exciting and things are changing very rapidly. There is now a dedicated website at www.gonzoweekly.com. At the moment it is extremely skeletal, but it will be titivated and enhanced and augmented with other stuff over the next few months.

In my defence, I have never pretended to be any sort of web designer, and I have never worked out how to use Dreamweaver or any of those clever things, and I don't understand anything but basic raw htm.

But it does the biz as Graham would say, and it contains links to all sixty-nine back issues. I will be guided by you, the readership as to what else should be on the magazine’s website. There will also be special things there which are only available to subscribers, which as the subscription costs now’t, is—I think—a reasonably good deal.

Somewhere along the line I will call upon members of my ever expanding Robot Army of the Undead and get someone to transfer all the back issues from the Mailchimp format in which they were originally composed, to this swish new page turney flip book thingy. But it ain’t gonna happen any time soon because - believe it or not - the rigours of putting out a 70 page magazine every seven days with a team of volunteers, and a budget of twenty five quid, are quite considerable.

But it will happen…..in the fullness of time...
yellow legged tortoiseshells. It is possibly symbolic of the strange times in which we are living that at the time that I write this we are undergoing an interesting invasion from Eastern Europe.

In 1953 a single specimen of an eastern European butterfly called the Scarce or Yellow Legged Tortoiseshell was caught in Kent. Another specimen was found dead in the Shetlands in November last year. But now, following a huge invasion of western Europe, they have turned up in some numbers in eastern England. There is now speculation that they might breed here.

I said to Corinna that as my stepdaughter Olivia lives in Norfolk she should give the forthcoming baby the middle name of Xanthomelas in honour of this extraordinary invasion, and she just looked at me with barely disguised disdain.

Corinna and Mother had gone to bed, and I was sitting in my study working on an article about XTUL III.
I am a fairly heavy drinker, and I was sitting typing with Archie the Jack Russell asleep on my lap, and a bottle of cheap bourbon by my side. I was also listening to the first solo album by Damon Albarn, which is my favourite record of the year so far and I was fairly deeply engrossed in what I was doing, so I didn’t hear the door open. I just looked up and there was Danny Miles grinning at me knowingly. He was accompanied by a slight figure in a long black hooded robe, with the hood pulled down so I couldn’t see its face.

“Lo Jon” he said. I grunted in reply. I was not in the mood for dealing with any more of his bullshit. I was enjoying the music and the whisky.

They say that when you are close to death your entire life passes before your eyes in slow motion, and as Corinna and I nearly died in a car crash on the M25 about seven years ago, I can confirm that this is actually true. As I stared at the naked figure before me, exactly the same thing happened. I immediately jumped to the conclusion that Danny had decided to take advantage of the current socio-political situation following the revelations about the late Jimmy Savile and the conviction a few weeks back of Rolf Harris; he had brought a naked girl into my study in order to attempt to blackmail me further. It is exactly the sort of thing that the bastard would have done.

Then my inner zoologist kicked in, and I noted—clinically—that she (I still thought of her as female) had no external secondary sexual characteristics, and that the shape of her face, shoulders and forearms were such that whatever she was…she was certainly not human.

“Fuck!” I said, and took a deep swig from my whisky and coke.

I was still unimpressed. “Look man” I said to him, rudely ignoring his companion. “I don’t wanna be rude to either of you, but I am not in the mood for this. I have got lots of work to do, and I don’t want to be distracted… by anyone”.

Danny looked at me smugly. “I know that you found the story that I told you hard to believe, so I thought that I should try and convince you”. He gestured to his companion. “Take your robe off Panne”.

She did as he asked, and with horror I saw that she was wearing nothing underneath it.

I am nearly 40 years too old to be having naked teenage girls in my rooms, and I reacted with horror! I have told you before how I have never liked or trusted Danny Miles, and how he was already attempting to blackmail me into helping him with his insane schemes. Back in the late 1990s, after my divorce from Alison, I was having an affair with a married woman who was not only notorious in her own right, but was then married to a well known and very influential businessman in the computer games industry. Danny had already intimated that he would make this affair public, if I did not help him with his project.

What he didn’t know was that not only did Corinna - my second wife - know all about it, but that the lady in question was now divorced from her influential husband and married to someone else. We still send each other Christmas greetings on Facebook and occasionally swap Leonard Cohen bootlegs, but that is the extent of our relationship these days.

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**When the Green Woods Scream**

and was engrossed in my task, and didn’t want to hear any more of his nonsense about demi-Gods performing hiphop. “What do you want?” I grunted rudely.

“There’s someone I want you to meet”, he said. “Say hello to Panne”, and the robed figure spoke to me shyly in the voice of a young teenage girl, “Hello Jon”.

I was still unimpressed. “Look man” I said to him, rudely ignoring his companion. “I don’t wanna be rude to either of you, but I am not in the mood for this. I have got lots of work to do, and I don’t want to be distracted… by anyone”.

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“Fuck!” I said, and took a deep swig from my whisky and coke.
This is the most important moment in history to do something for African elephants. Because it's the worst time in history to be an elephant.

In 1980 there were 1.2 million elephants in Africa. Now there are just 430,000 and 20,000 were killed last year alone to fuel soaring demand for ivory. About one every 20 minutes.

That's why The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with music industry icon Martin Guitar on #SaveElephants -- a movement to provide people with simple actions to help elephants that will add up to make a difference.

Martin Guitar has been a leader in elephant protection since the 1970s when the company made the decision to stop using ivory on its guitars and started to phase the material from its supply chain. As the founding sponsor of #SaveElephants, Martin has donated five custom elephant-themed guitars for raising funds.

#SaveElephants is part of a partnership between the Conservancy’s programs in Africa and China to increase wildlife security, expand habitat, reduce demand, and reduce poverty and instability in places where elephants range -- the root cause of poaching.

Ultimately, this is bigger than elephants. Poaching spreads crime and instability, threatening lives and tourism-based income that's desperately needed by the people who live among elephants.

We have to do more. That's why we're thrilled to be working with Martin Guitar -- and with you. Together, we're powerful.

Asante sana (thank you very much),

David Banks
Director, Africa Region
The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at nature.org/elephants and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.
I first met Steve Bolton in 1990 or 1991. My first wife and I had finished a tour with Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel during which we had become particularly friendly with the soundman Roy Weard. A few days before the end of the tour he asked us whether we fancied going to a gig in London.

At the time we were publishing a magazine called ISMO which was very much a precursor for Gonzo Weekly, except for the fact that it had nothing to do with Gonzo and it wasn’t weekly.

However, it had much the same mix of music, humour, anarchism and general malcontendedness as this current organ (oo-er missus) and only goes to show that either I was a rather prescient man in my late-20s, or that I am totally socially retarded now I am in my mid-50s. It so happened that we were going to be in London doing something completely different on the days that Roy mentioned, so we agreed.

It was only then that Roy explained that the lead singer and guitarist of this band called 6foot3 was a bloke called Steve Bolton, who had been Pete Townshend’s chosen amanuensis during the tour in the late 1980s when – due to his ever-increasing tinnitus – The Who geezer was unable to play electric guitar on stage. He spent the tour standing in a weird acoustic beehive affair strumming away at an acoustic guitar whilst doing an extremely funky thing on lead was none other than Roy’s mate Steve.

We went along to a venue in Greenwich and I can truthfully say that I don’t think I’ve ever been in such a loud concert.

My ears have since gone the way of Pete Townshend’s, and whilst I think it would probably be most unfair to try to blame this circumstance upon the first time I saw 6foot3, they were truly the loudest and most brutal noise that I have ever heard on stage since.

Brutal, yes. But elegantly brutal as well. I think that one of my favourite memories of them was their exceptionally stylish, guitar-led version of Jacques Brel song Jackie, as sung most famously by Scott Walker. Here I will make another admission. Whilst I had vaguely listened to Scott Walker before this, I was so impressed by 6foot3’s rendition that I went to listen to Walker’s version again and so discovered the man who to this day the man who is my favourite male singer.

Totally by chance I met Roy Weard again last year at one of the last concerts that Mick Farren played with The Deviants, and we soon picked up where we had left off 20 years before. It also happens, that a year ago, I met one of my favourite authors – C J Stone – and published a book of his through Gonzo Publishing. Stone is also a friend of Steve Bolton’s, and through the agency of one or another of these good fellows, Steve contacted me on Facebook.

We have been chitter-chattering for some months mostly because again after an unfeasible length of time he has reformed 6foot3, and I have mentioned the fact on a number of occasions in these pages.

The obvious thing to do next was to interview him, and I really had no idea why it took me so long to realise this.

However, on Wednesday afternoon this week I gave him a ring and we had a fascinating conversation about 6foot3 and just a few of the other things that he has done in a remarkable career. Would you believe that we didn’t actually have time in our conversation which was interrupted by my various recalcitrant hounds, to even mention The Who, but that will keep for next time.
Being a rock and roll guitarist always attracts the birds
The blizzard of oz

Felix Dennis died earlier this year. He was a remarkable man and one of the most important people to have come out of the counter-culture of the late-’60s and early-’70s. Indeed he can probably be described as being the person who came out of said counter-culture who had the most successful publishing career of all. More importantly, unlike many of his peers, who will remain nameless, he continued doing projects – such as the Heart of England Forest, whose mission statement is: “the plantation, re-plantation, conservation and establishment of trees for the benefit of the public, together with the education of the public by the promulgation of knowledge and the appreciation of trees,” which are totally inline with the ethos of the hippy movement then and now. According to Sean Coughlan, writing in 2006, Dennis told him: “I’ve been busy for years, buying land, often under pseudonyms, and planting trees on it. All the money is going into it when I die - and in the end I’d like to think that it will be 20 to 30,000 acres.”

Later in the same interview he described how he still felt that need to stand up against the establishment where necessary: “It’s the bullying that annoys me... When I see something that’s wrong, I just speak and act first and I’ll take the consequences later.”

He was the youngest and arguably the most dangerous of the three Oz conspirators, and his death has left a very big gap to fill.

The trial took place in the summer of 1971. Writer, broadcaster and film-maker Tony Palmer was in the court throughout the trial, and wrote an excellent book on the subject called ‘The Trials of Oz’.

Some years ago I worked with Palmer on a new edition of this book which is now being reissued via Gonzo Publishing.

Felix Dennis vowed revenge on all and sundry when, at the infamous OZ trial in 1971, Judge Michael Argyle sentenced him to a lesser term of imprisonment than the other two defendants, Richard Neville and Jim Anderson, "because he was obviously less intelligent."

Palmer had this to say:

“Felix Dennis vowed revenge on all and sundry when, at the infamous OZ trial in 1971, Judge Michael Argyle sentenced him to a lesser term of imprisonment than the other two defendants, Richard Neville and Jim Anderson, "because he was obviously less intelligent."
Within a few years Felix was a multi-zillionaire who could easily have destroyed Argyle financially in a threatened libel case against the now discredited Judge.

That he chose not to do so is symptomatic of the Felix I knew - a pussy cat, generous, funny and a very shrewd business man.

And a good poet, connoisseur of wine and collector of art - he had over 40 bronzes in his gardens. He adored the fine life and the pleasures it brought him. Nothing pleased him more than buying David Bowie's house in Mustique, not to mention the million (yes, a million) trees he planted around his house in Warwickshire as part of an educational scheme for children.

He gave away his money as fast as he earned it. It meant nothing to do him, except that it allowed to do those things which he hoped would give others pleasure.

This for him was happiness.

Incredibly, he still lived in the same house in London he bought soon after the Oz Trail. "Why move?" he asked me. "It's quite big enough for what I need."

He was a lovely, lovely man, only 67 when he died and, as he told me last year "so much to do, and so little time."

What a waste.
TONY P.
Gentle Giant was one of the most adventurous and rewarding British bands to ply the progressive rock trade in the 1970’s. Their career represented a perfect arc from the beginning to the end of the decade, starting with their debut *Gentle Giant*, and ending with the more strident rock attack of *Civilian*. In between, Giant crafted nine studio and one double live release that remain important studies in composition rife with counterpoint, multi-instrumentalism, and eclecticism.

In 1974, at the mid point of their short career, the brilliant *The Power and the Glory*, was released. The compositions were tighter, a bit more straight-forward than their work to that point, and the album sported an excellent concept with intelligible lyrics detailing a story of power and corruption. Gentle Giant’s albums prior to this release represent some of the most esoteric, and uncompromising progressive rock ever put to vinyl. By this point, while still not being quite commercial, their work seemed even more assured, and less encumbered by more obscure sounds on their previous outings. It’s follow up *Free Hand* would become their most popular studio album and commercial success, but the writing, performance and recording technique that led to that accomplishment starts with this album.

While there have been several re-releases of Gentle Giant albums over the years to produce better CD sound, and to reproduce their artistic packaging, most have not resulted in state of the art sound. This time Steve Wilson took the helm, as he has with so many other bands of this era, and produced the now definitive version of this classic. There hasn’t been a lot of discernible tinkering with the stereo version that occupies disk one, just an overall improved mix, deeper bass response, and clarity in the midrange. Disc two’s DVD features a 5.1 surround sound mix which is a revelation. Like Jethro Tull’s *A Passion Play*, reviewed last issue, the surround mix allows for previously indiscernible sonic detail to come forth. Extra tracks include “The Power and the Glory” single, not found on the original album, and on disc one an alternative instrumental version of “Aspirations.” The original version of “Aspirations” is one of keyboard, vibraphone player and raconteur Kerry Minnear’s most
beautiful vocals. This instrumental version gives the listener a chance to try to sing as he did (probably in your car on the way to work) though it’s a mighty challenge to hit those choir boy tones! On disc two, instead of only “Aspirations,” the entire album is presented a second time without vocals which allows the listener to catch even more of the complex musical interplay, particularly between guitarist Gary Green and Kerry Minnear’s many keys. Try tackling singer Derek Shulman’s exhausting vocals on *Cogs in Cogs* as a reminder of his range and power. This may be drummer John Weather’s best moment on record, and the gutsiest power-chords from guitarist Gary Green. The bonus studio track and a flat stereo mix are also included.

Making this release truly special, the 5.1 DVD presentation includes lyrics and videos prepared by bassist / multi-instrumentalist Ray Shulman which illustrate the story and content of each track. This presentation is unlike anything I’ve seen from another band. The content is graphical, using illustrations of playing cards, people, places, and things along with some fairly psychedelic imagery at times to represent the contrapuntal instrumental interplay. Lyrics appear or scroll through the picture in creative ways that add to your appreciation of the compositions. If you are inclined to pay attention while listening and watching you will be rewarded with these clever visuals that make the collection worth every penny.

On a related note, the tour that follows this album was captured on video in Germany and California on the wonderful *Giant on the Box* DVD release. It would have been fun to find the filmed material here as well but if you purchase that DVD as a companion piece you will own a complete set of the most rare Gentle Giant material available. Seeing this band play live is critical to gaining a complete appreciation of their work. While some may wonder why this level of release didn’t begin with *Three Friends*, *Octopus*, or *In A Glass House*, there is something about the more friendly rock-and-prog *The Power and the Glory* which makes it a great place to start, beyond who owns the rights to the material. All in all, highly recommended.

http://douglasharr.wordpress.com/
You know the score as well as I do. I’m not even going to try to pretend that this is an original idea of mine; the BBC thought it up decades ago and it was Rob Ayling’s idea to apply it to the Gonzo Weekly. The concept is a simple one: one takes a celebrity and plonks them on an unnamed desert island with a bible and the complete works of Shakespeare. Although any of our celebrities would be welcome to take a copy of the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare with them, this being Gonzo, we can think of other, more appropriate accoutrements – what was it the good Doctor took with him on his most well known expedition? “We had two bags of grass, seventy-five pellets of mescaline, five sheets of high-powered blotter acid, a salt shaker half full of cocaine, and a whole galaxy of multi-colored uppers, downers, screamers, laughers and also a quart of tequila, a quart of rum, a case of Budweiser, a pint of raw ether and two dozen amyls.”

I wouldn’t necessarily go that far, but if we may again quote the good Doctor: “I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they’ve always worked for me.” I am not going to lay down the law as to what luxury, or indeed essential items, our castaways are going to be given. The only thing we are going to ask them is for ten records which they believe would be utterly essential for their wellbeing if Gonzo Multimedia really were going to plonk them on an island in the middle of the ocean, which I have to say that, after the week I’ve had, sounds like my idea of utter bliss.

Al Atkins: More noted for forming UK’s Judas Priest and fronting them for four years, and laying down the foundations that would see them eventually selling 40 million albums worldwide. He also wrote songs for them that went gold like Dreamer Deceiver, Never Satisfied, Winter, Caviar and Meths, and Priest’s all-time classic Victim of Changes. Al’s unique powerful vocal style sites influences by noted rock singers Roger Daltrey, Paul Rodgers and longtime friend Robert Plant. Al has done countless radio and TV interviews worldwide and recently was filmed for BBC TV British Heritage and Banger Films Canada for the metal evolution series on VH1. He has even written a book on his musical life about growing up in Birmingham, UK, alongside Robert Plant and Black Sabbath, called Dawn of the Metal Gods. Al has released 6 solo albums to date, toured the US twice, and has worked with Brian Tatler (Diamond Head), Dave Holland (Judas Priest), Dennis Stratton (Iron Maiden) and Bernie Torme (Ozzy/ Gillan). Al recently released a new self-titled album with his offshoot band Holy Rage and has now teamed up with brilliant Christian writer/guitarist Paul May and recorded an album called ‘Serpent’s Kiss’, which Al says are the best recordings to date!

Paul May: Some people learn to play guitar, Paul was born
(again) to play guitar! Paul has become respected for his passionate, soulful guitar work and noted for his explosive and exciting solos. As a world-class professional guitarist and songwriter, Paul has played and recorded sessions across the globe, touring and playing throughout the UK, Europe, USA and the Eastern block. Paul appears on around 50 albums to date, featured in both the secular and Christian arenas. Paul is also a record producer and has covered the entire spectrum of musical tastes in production. Paul has played, recorded with and produced alongside the bands and members of: Al Atkins (Judas Priest), Dave Holland (Judas Priest), Roy Wood (Move, ELO, Wizard), Jon Brooks (The Charlatans), Smokin Roadie/Tempest, MC5, V-Rats, Janus, A.N.D, Dave Rowley Band, Larry Norman and many others. Along with working with Al Atkins, Paul currently plays guitar with A.N.D and Temple Dogs.

PAUL'S TOP 10 ROCK ALBUMS IN NO SPECIFIC ORDER

THIN LIZZY ------------------- LIVE AND DANGEROUS
METALLICA ------------------- METALLICA
BOSTON ---------------------- BOSTON
BLACK SABBATH --------- PARANOID
TED NUGENT --------------- LIVE GONZO
THE CULT ------------------- ELECTRIC
AC/DC ---------------------- HIGHWAY TO HELL
DEF LEPPARD ------------- HYSTERIA
KISS -------------------------------- KISS ALIVE 2
MOTORHEAD ---------------- BEST OF

AL'S TOP 10 ROCK ALBUMS IN NO SPECIFIC ORDER

JUDAS PRIEST ---------- 'SAD WINGS OF DESTINY'
JUDAS PRIEST ---------- 'PAINKILLER'
METALLICA ----------------- 'RIDE THE LIGHTNING'
SLAYER ------------------- 'REIGN IN BLOOD'
BLACK LABEL SOCIETY - 'MAFIA'
DEEP PURPLE ------------- 'MADE IN JAPAN'
BLACK SABBATH -------- 'PARANOID'
THIN LIZZY -----------------'LIVE AND DANGEROUS'
IRON MAIDEN ----------- 'NUMBER OF THE BEAST'
DIO ------------------------ 'HOLY DIVER'
would have got up, walked over to one’s hi-fi, turned the record over, and probably rolled a joint on the sleeve, I began ‘to get’ Balduin, and I enjoyed the second half far more than I had the first. I then went back to the beginning and listened to it again, with relish. Balduin is not a tribute artist at all. Rather, he is someone who works best within a genre that he obviously understands inside out, and he brings new twists – both compositional and as far as arrangements are concerned – which would never had been found in the original records that he obviously loves so much. As soon as I have got the next few stressful weeks out of the way, I am going to make it my business to check out Balduin’s back catalogue. He is very much a genre artist at the moment and this is a pity, because his songs, voice, and arrangements are so much better than the general hoi polloi that you find shopping “with a psychedelic gleam at all times in their eye” at Mellotrons ‘R’ Us.

Great stuff.

I had never heard of Balduin. I know very little more now, having received a pre-issue copy of his new album, All in a Dream. His website says, “Balduin was born in Bern, Switzerland in December 1978. He wrote his first song at the tender age of 8. Later, as part alchemist, multi-instrumentalist, he decided to form his one-man band called «Creative Cookery». It's not easy painting words for Balduin. Creative cookery with a drop of alchemy and nostalgic mellotronic ingredients? Lysergic meltdown of cinematic and psychedelic audiophilatelies.” And now you know everything that I do.

Except that I have heard the album, and you haven’t.

This is a surprisingly challenging piece of work. Not because it is spiky, inaccessible, or deliberately wilful, far from it, but more precisely for the opposite reason. The songs here initially at least sound like beautifully crafted homages to the psychedelic-era records by the Beatles, Kaleidoscope, Pink Floyd and a dozen more, and as I like my music to go forward, rather than back, my initial reaction was to write it off as the artefacts of a very good tribute band.

However, about half way through the album round about the place where if it had been on vinyl one
The Merchant of Venice
My relationship with Israel started sometime in the late 60s: 1968 or 1969. It happened unexpectedly.

We were reading the Merchant of Venice at school. In case you don’t know it, the Merchant of Venice is a deeply racist play. It is considered a “comedy” because it has a happy ending: happy that is, for everyone but the villain. The villain is Shylock, a Jew. The play exposes Shylock’s greed, his resentment, his inhumanity, his viciousness, his barbarity, but in the end right is restored, the good Christians get their just rewards and Shylock exits the stage utterly defeated, utterly destroyed, utterly alone. Even his own daughter turns against him.

Nevertheless, despite the racist overtones, it is a measure of Shakespeare’s greatness that he cannot help but give the most moving lines to his villain.

Here they are:

Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions; fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us do we not bleed? If you tickle us do we not laugh? If you poison us do we not die? And if you wrong us shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? Why, revenge. The villainy you teach me I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.

Act 3, scene 1, The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare.

The words are a call to recognise someone’s essential humanity, to see through their tribal alliances, and to identify with them, even in the midst of their crimes. Change the word “Jew” for “Palestinian” and the word “Christian” for “Israeli” and you have a good summation of what is happening in Israel and Palestine right now.

The words could be said by a member of Hamas. They could be said by an Israeli too.

Holocaust
After reading the play the subject of anti-Semitism came up.

Our teacher, Mr Frost, talked about the situation in Israel.

This was barely a year or two after the Six Day War.

He said that he understood why Palestinians would be upset at the loss of their homeland. He asked what our response would be here in the UK if another people had annexed Wales? He also talked of the holocaust and of the
Jewish people’s need for a safe haven. He weighed one position against the other and gave no definitive answers. I remember Mr Frost as a good, a fair, a diligent and an inspiring teacher.

I’m not sure now if he was referring to Israeli claims to the whole territory of Israel going back to 1948, or whether he was referring to the recent occupation of the Gaza strip and the West Bank, still fresh in everyone’s memory. I also can’t remember how the discussion in the classroom went. I was usually quite vociferous in debates, and would certainly have played an active part.

Later that day I repeated some of the discussion in front of my Dad.

Dads and sons are often rivals. It is one of the laws of nature.

So I recounted the discussion in the classroom and the next thing I knew I was in a blazing row with my Dad; a violent row, in which I ended up with a black eye and a split lip.

Now I have to admit my part in all of this.

I was an annoying little know-it-all. I was 16 years old and full up of my own opinions, which, on reflection, I realise to have been other people’s opinions dressed up as my own. I was an argumentative little sod, and probably quite boring.

Nevertheless it was odd – not to say disturbing – to find myself at the receiving end of such a violent onslaught.

I’ve seen a number of times since that my usually passive father has some turbulent hidden emotions.

He grows very angry, very red-in-the-face, when challenged about any of his fixed ideas.

But the quality of the anger on this day was of a different order altogether. It was like I had touched something raw and hidden in his psyche: like I had accidentally ripped off a scab which had unleashed some secret pain.

Mr Frost was my favourite teacher and I was trying to repeat his position. My Dad called him all sorts of names that I barely recognised.

I think he called him a communist. He threw a variety of supposed facts at me which I was unable to deny. When I tried to explain that Mr Frost had given us both sides of the story, he became even more enraged. I think it might have been at this point that he lashed out and hit me across the face.

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My name is Jonathan and I am an addict. It’s been ummmmmmmmmmm about two and a half hours since my last book. I am an inveterate reader, and have adored, devoured and collected books since I was about seven years old. This column was intended as a place to review books sent me by kindly publishers, but although such people do exist, and whilst I continue to get review books on occasion, and include them here, this column has evolved into reviewing the books—old and new—that I devour each week.

Although I have been reading rock music biographies for 40 years now, since starting to write a regular column about what I have been reading in the last week, I have become far more analytical about them. Last week I was very harsh about the book I had been reading, and I still think with good reason. However, this week my book has been a far more erudite and entertaining read. Whereas last week’s was cobbled together, this one appears to have been crafted very meticulously. And—most important—the author Mick Middles, has a degree of insight into his subject, which comes from his first hand experience.

I have always been a fan of peculiar and idiosyncratic record labels. This is probably why I ended up working with Gonzo. In the past 6 months I have reviewed many books that touch on this subject including tomes on the Beatles’ Apple Records and Ivo’s 4AD. This week it is the turn of one of the most idiosyncratic of the lot—Factory Records.

This book differs from anything else that I have read about the company. It doesn’t give a tortuous list of the different FAC catalogue numbers, it doesn’t mention Linder’s menstrual egg-timer, and it doesn’t mention that the final FAC number was given to Tony Wilson’s coffin. It doesn’t even claim that the Happy Mondays bankrupted the company.

The author claims in his final chapters that he wanted this book originally to be sub-titled ‘A
Factory Records Story’ because his view of events was both subjective and by its very nature not going to be the same as other people’s. There is a Japanese play called Rashomon, which tells the story of a murder. The story is told from the point of view of a number of different characters, including that of the murderer and the murder victim. Each person has a completely different view of events, and thus a different viewpoint as regards to which blame, and therefore culpability, should be assigned. The older I get, and the further along my path as a journalist I travel, I realise that all truth is subjective, and that there are indeed, as John Lydon sang back in 1978, “two sides to every story”, except that there are usually far more than two.

Another thing that makes this book an extremely rewarding one is, that whilst expressing some sympathy for and quite a lot of admiration for, Tony Wilson, it does not spend its time perpetuating the ‘Mr Manchester’ mythos, and explains a lot of the problems along the way which were purely caused by Wilson’s then glorious attitude, or sheer pigheadedness.

It also gives a lot more background information to the nascent punk rock scene in Manchester back during the mid-1970s. The importance of a gig by Lou Reed several years before the oft-chronicled Lesser Free Trade Hall appearance by the Sex Pistols (although it is the same venue) is discussed at some length and its importance to the emerging zeitgeist of the city’s emerging rock and roll persona. According to Middles, one could extrapolate that this single concert was more important in changing the perception of Manchester as the city of The Hollies and Herman’s Hermits to the city of Joy Division and The Smiths.

Because I am on such a tight schedule at the moment I rushed through this book rather than sitting and savouring both the anecdotes and the cleverly constructed prose therein. I can heartily recommend this book to anybody who is even slightly interested in the history of one of the most culturally important record labels of modern times, albeit quite possibly the one with the worst business model.
(The Masters of the Universe do seem to have a steady stream of interesting stories featuring them, their various friends and relations, and alumni). Each week Graham Inglis keeps us up to date with the latest news from the Hawkverse.

In another week that's rather quiet on the Hawkwind News front, many fans have continued to speculate on last week's enigmatic announcement from Hawkwind that "Sonic Attack is on the way."

One plausible suggestion has been that it's a single release from the forthcoming "Space Ritual" 2014 video, recorded in Shepherd's Bush back in February.

A somewhat less likely scenario is that it's an album consisting of all the versions of "Sonic Attack" released thus far. Since the versions index page of Starfarer's Hawkwind information site (Hawkwind Codex) LINK: http://www.starfarer.net/hwcodex.html#S currently lists 19 versions, that certainly would provide enough track material for a full double album - whatever one might say about its viability as an evening's listening experience.

It's actually unlikely to be the name of a forthcoming album at all, as an LP by that name was released way back in 1981.

Meanwhile, some Hawkwind fans on Facebook have been filling in time by looking at the shirt-pocket-sized Korg Monotron Delay Synthesizer, which can be purchased for £38 / $50.

Any old hippies who have ever attended a party where someone turned up with a Wasp synth and then passed it around for people to try out will feel immediately at home with the squawks, drones and gurgles that this Korg unit can churn out.

Nothing quite like a bit of home-generated sonic attack whilst waiting for Hawkwind to deliver their Sonic Attack...
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Greetings space travellers!
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The idea is for Hawkwind fans to have access to special Hawkwind events such as Hawkfest, obtain limited edition DVDs and CDs of exclusive material and to attend private Hawkwind parties.

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The Court Circular tells interested readers about the comings and goings of members of The Royal Family. However, readers of this periodical seem interested in the comings and goings of Yes and of various alumni of this magnificent and long-standing band. Give the people what they want, I say…

Now culture lovers, it is that time of the week again when I wade through news involving Yes, and the 23 people who have been in the band since it was formed in 1968. I very much doubt whether anything is going to eclipse the amount of news, or the importance of the news, that we published two weeks ago with a new album from the mother band, and the mind-blowing news that Jon Anderson and Jean-Luc Ponty have started a new band together. But, there is a fair amount of news for you this week, which is not really surprising considering that Yes are on tour promoting the new album. Most of these stories are merely critiques of the new album (most people seem to like it well enough, but everybody looks back at the days when Jon Anderson was on lead vocals with rose-tinted spectacles) Q: how many record collectors does it take to change a light bulb? A: an infinite number. One to change the light bulb and the rest to complain that the bulb isn’t as good as the original version. I am the master of stupid puns, and always enjoy it when other people toiling in the rock and roll journalists vineyard resort to them. I was quite impressed this week when not one but two journalists came up with a pun based on the title of Yes’ fourth studio album. I wish I had thought of that (“you will dear, you will,” says Corinna).

- Rock band Yes has been around a long time, and has a new vocalist
- Forty-six years on, Yes is anything but “Fragile”
- Yes: Venerable Prog-Rock Icons Are the Opposite of Fragile
- Yes’ Jon Anderson to perform at Chesterfield Amphitheater, Moto Museum
- Yes show brings standing O’s
- Concert review: Yes at Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre
- Something Else! sneak peek: Yes, “Your Move/All Good People” from Songs From Tsongas: The 35th Anniversary Concert (2014)
- Yes - Hard Rock Live Hollywood - August 1
- YES: HEAVEN & EARTH

And finally there are two articles about Bill Bruford, which considering he is retired from the public eye, is no mean feat.

- The Madness Of King Crimson
- YES, KING CRIMSON: Regrets? I’ve Had a Few #1: Bill Bruford

I am probably getting a bit OCD about all of this, but I find the Yes soap opera of sound to be absolutely enthralling, and I for one can’t wait to see what happens next!
Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the release of his landmark concept album, Rick Wakeman presents the repackaged, re-recorded, extended JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH.

Based on the novel by Jules Verne, which will also mark its 150th anniversary in 2014, the album is one of the rock era's landmark achievements - a record that sold 15 million copies and rewrote the rules.

"This is the start of a new Journey," says Rick Wakeman, "the original score for the album had been lost for so many years, making any new performances impossible, but after it turned up without warning, we managed to restore it and add previously missing music that was not included in the original performances."

Return To The Centre Of The Earth was originally released in 1999 as a sequel to 'Journey'. The album has been out of print and unavailable for many years, 'Return' has now been re-issued and re-packaged to complement the newly extended and re-recorded edition of 'Journey To The Centre Of The Earth'.

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The worldwide Freecycle Network is made up of many individual groups across the globe. It's a grassroots movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. Freecycle groups match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. Our goal is to keep usable items out of landfills. By using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of junk that we no longer need and promote community involvement in the process.

http://uk.freecycle.org/
Rob Ayling writes:

"Thom the World poet is an old mate of mine from way back in my history. Even pre-dating Voiceprint, when I was running "Otter Songs" and Tom's poetry tapes and guest appearances with Daevid Allen, Gilli Smyth Mother Gong are well known and highly regarded. It just felt right to include a daily poem from Thom on our Gonzo blog and when I approached him to do so, he replied with in seconds!!! Thom is a great talent and just wants to spread poetry, light and positive energy across the globe. If we at Gonzo can help him do that - why not? why not indeed!!"

WILD LIFE

THERE ARE STILL FISH IN BARTON SPRINGS
small, but visible. There is an eel that sometimes comes out
And then those legendary salamanders - tiny, threatened
Unique to this habitat. All long before a human hand drank from /

a human body slipped into these cool, refreshing Springs
So some say words are flowers on the waters
and the truth is to actually enter the Springs
first by sitting, watching, waiting
next by merging with those waters
which will always be more than we who come as pilgrims
for temporary admission. Whether drought or no - we flow
We are the wild life sun sipping by the sides of Pool
We are those swimming in those waters so cool
Fish, eel, salamander, snake - all take to the waters
We are All water!
In Victorian times every well-bred Gentleman had a 'Cabinet of Curiosities'; a collection of peculiar odds and sods, usually housed in a finely made cabinet with a glass door. These could include anything from Natural History specimens to historical artefacts.

There has always been something of the Victorian amateur naturalist about me, and I have a houseful of arcane objects; some completely worthless, others decidedly not, but all precious to me for the memories they hold.

But people send me lots of pictures of interesting, and, may I say, peculiar things. But once again this week it is over to my lovely wife...

So next weekend is the annual Weird Weekend. But more importantly – to me at least – next weekend I will see my eldest daughter and her husband, and my youngest daughter and her partner. Now that makes all the trouble and strife that comes with the event much more bearable. And as an added bonus, I can get my first feel of my youngest daughter's baby bump!

Over the years since I moved to Devon, and they left university to eventually move to Staffordshire and Norfolk respectively, my beautiful girls have grown into beautiful young women and I find myself missing them dreadfully. But for a few days next week we can throw sarcasm, wit and silliness at each other, have a few cuddles and have a good time.

But back to the cabinet of oddities, curiosities, and just downright peculiarities. Not a lot to go on this week I’m afraid, and I was quite exhausted after the search I led myself into, as you will see later on.

However, on with the show, tally ho! chocks away! And all that sort of thing.
11 Things You Probably Didn’t Know About The Beatles, Even If You’re A Superfan

“If tomorrow never knows, then you definitely don’t know these things. Lay down all thoughts, surrender to the void of trivia. The Beatles’ “Revolver” was released on this day, Aug. 5, way back in 1966. To celebrate the anniversary of this revolutionarily “weird” album, here are eleven super weird things about The Beatles.

1. The Beatles concerts were said to smell heavily of urine due to overexcited girls.

Multiple people have claimed Beatles shows were known for their urine. Notably, John B. Lynn, son of the owner of a venue The Beatles played, told The Washington Post that the concert hall smelled like the pee of over-excited girls after the show. Bob Geldof told Q Magazine in 2010:

The Beatles was a case of watching females in excelsis. It’s the old cliché, but you couldn’t hear them for all the screaming. I remember looking down at the cinema floor and seeing these rivulets of piss in the aisles. The girls were literally pissing themselves with excitement. So what I associate most with The Beatles is the smell of girls’ urine.

Charmed I’m sure. But could it have simply been that they were so cramped in the ‘60s-style mosh pit that a) they couldn’t get out to wee or b) they didn’t want to risk losing their space, or c) the queues would have been so long they may have missed something? After all we all know girls always go to the loo together - and take ages - so they wouldn’t even be able to get their friend to watch their, probably, hard fought for place.

Or yes, it could just have been girlish excitement in overdrive. You know, I have never been that excited.

THE BITCH IS BACK
to pee myself under such circumstances, or any circumstances in fact. And what is more, in a peculiar way I feel slightly cheated!  

Read more of these Beatles revelations here:  

ABBA ! MEGA RARE ABBA MATCHBOX DOLLS & STAGE OUTFITS !! - £2,000

“ALL” 4” OF THE ABBA DOLLS ISSUED BY MATCHBOX IN 1978 WITH THE OFFICIAL BACKING OF POLAR MUSIC SWEDEN ! THE MOST FAMOUS ABBA DOLLS IN THE WORLD RARELY COME UP FOR SALE AS A SET TOGETHER WITH 3 EXTRA STAGE OUTFITS FROM THE OFFICIAL COLLECTION.”

Oh my goodness. £2,000?! Now, these must be rare. If you have that amount of readies to spare, treat yourself to this once in a lifetime bargain.

ROLLING STONES BOBBLE DOBBLES/BOBBLEHEAD SET - £4.99


Yay! More bobbleheads. But this time its….The Rolling Stones. Trouble is, I took one look at Sir Mick and thought, I know that face. But I couldn’t for the life of me remember the chap’s name or where I remembered him from. This tickled my OCD somewhat and I just had to find out who it was. But with no name to type into the search engine, this was going to prove tricky, and I spent far more time than I had to spare trying to

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME

Just in case you are interested, here is yer beloved Editor at iTunes

Check it out now...
find him. I opened and shut doors inside my head to try to locate the smallest morsel of a clue. There are so many doors inside my cranium, that it was proving to be a lost cause, until the last but one - the old stable door with the rusty hinges - creaked opened and let forth this little clue: it was something to do with children’s news.

So back it was to the keyboard and images of various children’s news programmes, and there he was in all his glory. John Craven no less.

And after all the ill-afforded time that I spent searching out this doppelganger, all I ask is that you exclaim, “Wow what an uncanny likeness”.

Read more about the heads that bobble here…

RUSSIAN DOLL -SET OF 5 - DEEP PURPLE
JON LORD IAN GILLAN RITCHIE BLACKMORE - £9.99

And more Russian dolls. Yay again. And someone completely different in the shape of none other than...Deep Purple.
Although it does have to be said that the pictures on these do appear to be cut out of a magazine or some such source, and pasted on rather than painted. A touch of the old decoupage going on.

“DEEP PURPLE
SET OF 5 RUSSIAN DOLLS STANDING 10 CM TALL EACH ONE GOING INSIDE THE OTHER.
Set of five DEEP PURPLE Russian dolls showing all five of the famous band members. The first doll has RITCHIE BLACKMOOR on it, after Gillan, than great Jon Lord, Glover and the last is Paice.”

Bid here if you like:

Even animals can’t ‘bear’ Bieber! Justin-themed ringtone saves Russian fisherman from attack
Wednesday 6 Aug 2014 3:54 pm

“It seems that we can now add bears to the list of creatures that aren’t too keen on Justin Bieber. Or at least one particular brown bear, whose attack on a Russian fisherman was thwarted by the singer’s dulcet tones.

Igor Vorozhbitsyn had reportedly been walking to a fishing spot in the country’s Yakutia Republic when he was set upon by the animal.

But as he attempted to fight the creature off he was saved by a call on his mobile phone – which just happened to have Bieber’s hit Baby as its ringtone.

And that, it seems, was all it took for the bear to stop its assault and run back into the nearby forest.”

Score! Maybe unlucky in the fanbase stakes for the bumptious Bieber, but very good luck for Igor. More than a little amusing that barnacle Bieber saves someone by frightening away something just with his voice. I wonder what affect his actual face would have on this bear? Probably not a good idea to test that one out though; the bear might actually be so angered, disgusted and upset that it may not run away next time.

Look out, Joan Rivers: One of the Village People is not happy with you.
“As reported by Canoe.ca, Village People original Victor Willis (he was the brawny traffic cop in the disco group) has taken the 81-year-old comedienne to task for allegedly using “racist” comments in reference to the Biebs.

To rewind the story, let’s revisit last weekend’s edition of the popular E! series Fashion Police, where Rivers regularly holds court on the panel dispensing yays or nays on modern celebrity style.

On this occasion, Rivers weighed in on a photograph of the 20-year-old Bieber wearing an Alexander McQueen sweater and baggy black leather pants (with matching leather skirt), black hat, oversized gold chain and gleaming white shoes for a trip, apparently, to the supermarket.

Said Rivers: “That little [expletive] just gets on my nerves.”

You can watch the snippet here plus a very peculiar - and not very good - rap from Ms Rivers.

Willie Nelson’s hair plaits for sale in auction of Waylon Jennings’ belongings

There are plaits, and there are plaits, but Willie Nelson’s plaits are plaits to top all plaits. They are simply stupendous!

And they are part of a very eclectic mix of items up for auction.

“The plaits were cut from Nelson’s head in 1983 as a sign of solidarity for fellow country musician, the late Waylon Jennings, who at the time was attempting a period of sobriety. A host of Jennings’ personal belongings are to be listed in the auction, including Buddy Holly’s
“Wikimedia, the company that owns Wikipedia, has refused to delete a photo that a monkey took of itself, claiming there is no copyright. British nature photographer David Slater has argued the photograph belonged to him, as it was his camera that was hijacked by the primate. Slater began a legal battle with Wikimedia after the photo went viral online.”

Oooh now this is a tricky one. I guess it could be argued that copyright belongs to the monkey involved, but that would never be. Rally the call! Primate discrimination!

But in this case I think I tend to lean towards it being copyright to the owner of the camera.

Read and hear more here ….

Sexism and racism permeate music videos, according to new report

“Analysis of academic research on music videos suggests viewers are also more likely to adopt sexist attitudes themselves.”

You don’t say! I think quite a few people could have told them that years ago, and without the need to spend how many thousands of pounds it cost to instigate academic research. But then again, so many things are not listened to unless they have been given the stamp of approval by academic research; commonsense is nothing and cannot stand up on its own unless endorsed by an academic.

Pah!

Read all about this breaking news here ….

And to finish off with something completely different this week:

motorcycle, which Jennings was given after Holly died, as well as Muhammad Ali’s boxing gloves and robe, Hank Williams’ cowboy boots and a letter to Jennings from John Lennon, reports Rolling Stone.”

Read more here ….

Hoodies £25. T-shirts £15, Beanies £6. PM me for P&P, all profits to Sea Shepherd xx
Write to Samdance Kirwan at sam.kirwan@ntlworld.com
NIGHT OF PROG

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GARBLE

RATCHET

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Heliopolis

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XNA band.com
ticketmaster
There are nine Henrys, purported to be the world’s first cloned cartoon character. They live in a strange lo-fi domestic surrealist world peopled by talking rock buns and elephants on wobbly stilts. They mooch around in their minimalist universe suffering from an existential crisis with some genetically modified humour thrown in. I think Peter McAdam is one of the funniest people around, and I cannot recommend his book The Nine Henrys highly enough. Check it out at Amazon. Each issue we shall be running a series of Henrybits that are not found in his book about the nine cloned cartoon characters who inhabit a surreal world nearly as insane as mine...
For the first time in Hartland, the world famous event; three days of monsters, ghosts and UFOs presented by some of the world’s leading experts

* Lectures
* Films
* Music
* Quiz
* Live Bugfest

* Over 20 hours of mind bending entertainment
* Kids under 16 Free
* Great food and drinks

The Small School, Hartland, North Devon
www.cfz.org.uk

August 15-17 2014
TEL: +44 (0) 1237 431413
Dear Friends,

There is good and bad news.

The bad news is that we are no longer holding this year’s Weird Weekend in Woolsery. The good news, is that we have found another venue for this year's event, and hopefully for many years to come: The Small School in Hartland.

I have had a lot of emails and telephone calls about the decisions by the Woolsery Community Hall Committee which have led to our leaving. A lot of people appear to be quite angry about what has happened. We would like to say, that whilst we don’t agree with their decisions, they were quite within their rights to make them, and we respect that right. We are sad to move the event away from Woolsery, but by doing so we are supporting the Small School in Hartland even more, and this was – after all – the thing which started off all the problems with the Community Centre in the first place.

From the Small School website:

“The Small School was founded in 1982 by Satish Kumar and other parents living in an isolated rural community in an economically-deprived area of South West England. The nearest state secondary school, with almost 2,000 students, was 13 miles away, involving 2 hours travelling a day by bus. This pioneering group, most of whose children had been educated in small village primary schools, wished to show that secondary education, too, could be modelled on the family, rather than the factory, and based in the local community.

The school is in the centre of Hartland in the old church hall and at the heart of the community. At the rear of the school we have a vegetable garden that is maintained by the students and the food produced is used for the cooked lunches. As a school we aspire to a greener future and we are constantly looking at ways to be more environmentally friendly. As a school we recycle and source all our produce (if it’s not already growing in the garden) from the local farm shop in Hartland. By doing this we are not only supporting local businesses but also cutting down on food miles.

The school serves vegetarian food and other dietary requirements are also catered for. A different parent volunteers to cook the lunch each day and a rota of students help out in the kitchen too. All students attend a Level 2 Food Safety course in order to prepare for the kitchen work. Students also take responsibility for the cleaning of the buildings at the end of the day”.

The Small School is not as large as the Woolsery Community Centre, but we believe that there is plenty of room for our needs. There will be a bar and a restaurant, and profits from both will go to the School itself. However, because we are sad to be leaving Woolsery, we shall be making our customary donation to Woolsery charities.

This is a new beginning, and we hope that in future years the event will grow and that we shall be able to involve our friends across North Devon and make this a truly community event which shall carry on for years. There will be changes, but as any ecologist will tell you, without change, systems go stagnant, and I would hate that to happen to something to which I have given my heart and soul over the past fifteen years. We shall be running a shuttle service for anyone who is booked into a Woolsery B&B who doesn’t have their own transport, and will be uploading a list of accommodation and campsites in Hartland over the next few days .

- Check out a list of accommodation in Hartland here: http://www.hartlandpeninsula.co.uk/hotels-inns-bed-breakfast
- You don't know what the Weird Weekend is? Wash out your mind with soap: http://www.weirdweekend.org/
- Buy Tickets online at a special discount price: http://www.weirdweekend.org/ticket.htm
<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Drinks at Myrtle Cottage</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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<td>7 - 7.15</td>
<td>Nigel Mortimer: Opening Portals</td>
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<td>8.15 - 8.45</td>
<td>Lee Walker: Urban Legends of Liverpool</td>
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<td>Lars Thomas: Tales from the CFZ Laboratory</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
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<td>Tony Whitehead (RSPB): Out of Place birds in Devon reserves</td>
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<td>Hunt Emerson: A show on Fortean cartoonery</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
<td>John Higgs: Chaos, Magick, and the band who burned a million quid</td>
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<td>SUNDAE</td>
<td>Richard Freeman: Tasmania 2013 Expedition Report</td>
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<td>10.00 - 11.00</td>
<td>Silas Hawkins: A bedtime story from Richard Freeman’s Hyakumonogatari</td>
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<td>12.00 - 1.00</td>
<td>Matt Salusbury: Maurice de Rostchild’s Deinotherium caper</td>
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<td>2.00 - 3.00</td>
<td>C.J. Stone: a MODERN King Arthur</td>
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<td>Glen Vaudrey: The Mystery Animals of Cheshire</td>
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<td>5.00 - 5.15</td>
<td>Results of nature walk (Lars/Nick/Jon)</td>
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<td>5.15 - 6.00</td>
<td>Ronan Coghlan: The Amphibians from Outer Space</td>
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<td>Jon Downes: Keynote Speech</td>
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<td>7.00 - 7.30</td>
<td>Speaker’s Dinner at the Small School</td>
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<td>PLUS:</td>
<td>Art exhibition from Hunt Emerson</td>
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<td>Art Exhibition from Glen Vaudrey</td>
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<td>Featured music spotlight from 4th Eden</td>
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<td>The Tunnell of Goats</td>
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<td>More attractions to be announced.</td>
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CLASSIC LOST BROADCAST RELEASES FROM

GONZO

ROCK OF THE 70's

The secrets of what made YES the massively successful band they became is visible here for all to see in 14 tracks on these 2 DVDs, featuring rare TV performances from the 70's.

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SPOOKY TOOTH

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Distributed by

GONZO MULTIMEDIA
of the incredible ‘Movements In Architecture’). It certainly seems unusual to hear the guys with a more full sound, and also performing rock ‘n’ roll for a full album, but it certainly works for me! My favourite is “Photographs & Memories” which has some wonderfully delicate piano and vocals from Cath (reminiscent in some ways of “The Quivering”), with poignant electric guitar from Jay.

This has inspired the guys to get out there and start performing again, with Josh now being that much older, and they are working as a quartet so now all I have to do is to wait for them to come over this side of the ditch, but until then I’ll just keep playing this. It’s great to have them back, and if you enjoy rock ‘n’ roll then this is a delight.

www.mundyturner.com

OSTA LOVE
Good Morning Dystopia
(INDIE)

Osta Love are a studio project that has been put together by childhood friends Leon Ackermann (drums) and Tobias Geberth (guitar, vocals, keys and bass). They started Osta love in 2010, and this is their debut album, showing that they have been heavily influenced by Porcupine Tree, Muse, Pink Floyd and other more emotional and dreamy bands. There may not be too much in terms of rock within this prog rock album, but there is just enough so that it doesn’t become a blancmange of sound. There is just enough diversity and contrast to keep the listener involved and become emotionally divested in what is going on. Lyrically the album is dealing with urban life, surveillance and escapism, and the image on the front cover is incredibly striking. Why are they covered in red? Who is she/he? What is their purpose? This doesn’t feel like a
THE WORLD OF KEV ROWLAND

PHASE REVERSE
Phase II: And Man Created God
(LEADERS)

Well, it has been five years since the debut, and three years since it was reissued on Aural Music, but at long last one of my favourite Greek bands are back with the follow-up. There have been some changes afoot, with singer/bassist Anastasios “Tas” Ioannidis leaving, and the band taking the opportunity to move from a trio to a quartet by bringing in vocalist Takis Mark and bassist Kostas Dragon-K, but there hasn’t been a significant change in sound. What we have here is music that is grounded in stoner, doom and southern (that’s pronounced ‘Suvverrrrnn!!”), yet contains a groove and vitality that takes it away from the navel-gazing that can so often be associated with the former. There is no way that music such as this should be coming from Europe, this is as American as Jack Daniels, and each time I play this I am astounded at just how original and authentic this sounds!

It hits hard, with stacks of bottom end, but it is the inherent groove and swing that lightens this and provides the drama and vitality that lifts this so far above the norm. I had forgotten just how good Phase Reverse actually are until I put this on the player, but now I remember it is going to take a lot to shift them out! Yet another stunning album from the Greeks, let’s hope that it isn’t nearly as long until the next one. www.phasereverse.com

MAYAN
Antagonise
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

There are times that when a band is described as being part of a sub-genre that in itself is part of another sub-genre that one just wants to not bother listening to the album, as how on earth can that be right? Well, back with their second album Mayan prove again just how wrong that idea can be, as what we have here is a Symphonic Death Metal band who are exactly that. Originally this started as a project conceived by Mark Jansen (Epica) and his old friend, Jack Driessen (ex-After Forever), and they put together a band with some guest singers (including current Nightwish vocalist Floor Jansen). Well, Floor is back again for this album, but there has been a firming of the ranks and there are now seven full-time members, three of whom are singers.

Songs such as “Insano” allow soprano Laura Macri to show her paces, but for the most part her role is to provide support to the main leads of Mark Jansen (grunts and screams) and Henning Basse. Musically there is a great deal going on, and the guys aren’t afraid to bring out the acoustic when the time is right, but for the most part this is brutal metal with keyboards being orchestrated to bring an over the top appeal to the material. It is polished, and extremely complex, but there are times such as with “Human Sacrifice” where the symphonic passages are used to highlight just how heavy and strong these guys can be when they want to.

There have been a few albums in this style recently, and when bands get it right I am stunned at just how bombastic and intense this can be. To say that Mayan have it right is something of an understatement as this is everything one could wish for with an album, with great songs, wonderful musical performances and vocals, while the production is also top rate. This is definitely worth discovering. www.nuclearblast.de
PERCIVAL SCHUTTENBACH

Born in 1999 in Lubin, Poland, Percival Schuttenbach is “a lively combination of native culture with strong voices, amazing live show and original instrumentation. The team is formed by a charismatic leader - guitarist and vocalist in one drummer with global impact and energy, and - above all - by three beautiful and demonic wokalistko-instrumentalists with three different hair colors. This doomed to succeed the recently released a new album playing at the highest level with the participation of a lot of Polish and foreign visitors.”

“PERCIVAL SCHUTTENBACH (folk-metal) & PERCIVAL (folk) is a musical group which includes several projects. Projects vary mostly in instruments and repertoire.”

Facebook
Website

“Percival Schuttenbach is created by:
Mikolaj Rybacki (electric guitar, saz, mandoline, plucked string instruments, vocal)
Katarzyna Bromirska (electric cello, Byzantine lyre, accordion, flutes, vocal)
Joanna Lacher (vocal, bass guitar, other)
Christina Bogdanova (vocal, Kaos Pad 2 & Reloop)
Andrzej Mikityn (drum set, percussion instruments)

PERCIVAL
The project is connected with historical re-enactment. Till now it involves two sub-projects:

Early mediaeval
PERCIVAL - Slavs and Viking music.
The project is the result of fascination with the Early Middle Ages. Its intention is to try to reconstruct the Early Middle Ages culture, traditions, instruments and music of Slavic and Scandinavian people, mostly on the basis of the knowledge of instruments that contemporary artists have used and archaic, pagan songs.

III world war - songs of Warsaw Uprising, partisans and other; Traditional instruments of this time: accordion, mandoline, vocal.

Percival is created by:
Mikolaj Rybacki - saz, vocal, mandoline
Katarzyna Bromirska - byzantine lyre, vocal, accordion, sopilka
Joanna Lacher - drums, vocal
Christina Bogdanova - drums, vocal”

Listen:
Svantevit - Premiera 21 września 2013!
Percival-Dziewczyna Swarożyca
This is probably the busiest time of Corinna’s and my year. In less than a week the great and the good of Forteana will be descending upon my lawn to drink cocktails and talk esoteric weirdness, and next Friday the 15th Weird Weekend starts in earnest. There are several Gonzo-related acts on the bill. We have the legendary Judge Smith talking about his latest book – the second in his trilogy of works about life after death. We have the equally legendary CJ Stone talking about his relationship with a modern King Arthur. We have Gonzo Weekly contributor and House Wally, Dean Phillips together with the mortal remains of Wally Hope, and we have the lovely Carol Hodge aka Miss Crystal Grenade who will be bringing us a slice of her own existential Victorian madness.

For a decade and a half I have been promoting this event, and always enjoy it when it is on. I always enjoy the six months after the event as well. This is the time when I make plans for the following year, and haven’t yet started worrying about whether people will turn up to make it worthwhile, or whether the dear sweet ladies who do the catering are going to find that they have ordered too much, or too little, and end up chasing me around the town with a variety of culinary impedimenta.

There will be Gonzo Weekly next week, but it will be a different format to usual, and as of 2.30 am on Saturday I have no idea what idea it will actually appear. But it is mysteries like this which make life worthwhile.

If you happen to be in North Devon next weekend, please come along. Tickets are only £25 a head on the door, unless you happen to live in the conurbations of Hartland, Clovelly, Welcome or Woolser, whereupon you can get in for the whole weekend for a fiver. Wherever you live, children under 16 (as long as accompanied by a responsible adult) get in for free. There is free cake and the best Fortean fun you can have in the known universe whilst keeping your clothes on.

Be there, or be eternally un-hip.

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BEEFHEART AT HIS BEST
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11 Dec 1980
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