EXCLUSIVE: We talk to Galahad's Stu Nicholson

EXCLUSIVE:
Fear and Loathing with Rob Ayling
EXCLUSIVE:
Merrell Fankhauser's desert gig in pictures
EXCLUSIVE:
New music from Zoot Horn Rollo
EXCLUSIVE:
Doug Harr critiques Wakeman box set

THE SPECIAL ONE-OFF WEIRD WEEKEND ISSUE

ARISE SIR GALAHAD
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 the Gonzo Weekly. This is a particularly peculiar one because as every sentient being in the known universe will be aware this weekend is our annual Weird Weekend, held for the first time at The Small School, Hartland.

The Small School is a co-educational, independent school for 11-16 year olds, based in Hartland, Devon. Although over thirty years old, the Small School continues to pioneer a human scale approach to education and there is no other secondary school quite like it in the country.

If you happen to be in North Devon this weekend, please come along, we’d love to see you. This year’s event features quite a few people who will be familiar from the pages of this magazine: 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.

But enough of that. The only reason that I am talking about this in my editorial in this issue is not – as the more cynical about you might suppose – in order to have a desperate attempt at flogging a few more tickets, but for far more sound journalistic reasons. It is because, in a complete break with tradition, instead of writing this editorial on a Thursday or Friday evening, I am actually dictating it to the lovely Andrea on Tuesday afternoon, in a vain attempt to get this issue of the magazine done and dusted before Thursday evening when my garden gets invaded by half the population of Western Europe (or at least it seems like it), and my life descends into some sort of quasi-Lovecraftian fantasy world until the end of the weekend.

So, quite naturally (I think) my mind has been going along esoteric channels for the last few weeks.

Recently, Mother and I have been watching the X-Files. I enjoyed them when they first came out twenty odd years ago, but this year’s episode has been particularly interesting. The show has always been known for its blend of science fiction and mystery, but this season has taken it to a whole new level. The episodes have been getting darker and more intense, and it’s clear that the writers are not afraid to tackle some heavy themes.

One episode that stood out to me was the one where a group of people were kidnapped and subjected to some sort of experiment. The victims were left with no memory of their past, and had to try to piece together their lives all over again. It was a chilling reminder of how vulnerable we are, and how little we actually know about the world we live in.

But let’s get back to the real world, shall we? The Small School Weird Weekend is just around the corner, and I hope to see you there. Until then, keep your minds open and your eyes wide.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
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

So, the question remains; why would a political administration collude with a TV programme – which it could be argued - that portrayed them in a potentially very unfavourable light? Why would any government want to be portrayed as deviant, amoral, and totally without conscience? Do you remember what the ill-fated Jo Moore wrote on 11th September 2001? For those of you who don’t remember, she was a special advisor to a cabinet minister in the New Labour government. After the World Trade Centre Towers had been hit she sent an email to the press office of her department that read “It’s now a very good day to get out anything we want to bury”.

I may be being paranoid. but as Penny Rimbaud wrote in 1982, just because they say you’re paranoid doesn’t mean you are not on their computers. I have every reason to be paranoid; my telephones were tapped for a while in 1996 and possibly in 1999. So, forgive my paranoia, but could it possibly be that the powers that be in the US and the UK encouraged the popularity of the X-Files, and the vibrant culture of suspicion and paranoia that it engendered precisely because they would prefer to be suspected of colluding with extra terrestrials than be outright accused of something much nastier that the actually did do?

Anyway, boys and girls, we are approaching the Weird Weekend, we are coming up to my weirdest time of the year, and this is certainly the weirdest Gonzo Weekly of the year. So, please allow my little indulgence. Normality (whatever that means) will be restored next week.

The truth is out there (allegedly). Trust no-one (not even me).

Jon.


ago. Mother, however – despite having spent eighty five years on this planet – had never seen them before, and is enjoying them as much as I am. The whole programme is designed to play on one’s innate paranoia, of course, but I hadn’t realised until watching them again how thoroughly the programme moulded the mindset of an entire generation of earnest seekers after truth. The concept that, in the aftermath of WW2, Allied Governments carried out an undignified scramble to get hold of the expertise of the most brilliant scientists from Nazi Germany and Japan is historical fact. The idea that these scientists were already working on genetic experiments involving alien DNA, and that the bar was raised significantly on the wake of the incident of Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 is purely speculative and if you want to know the truth, I think it is probably nonsense. But can one really imagine that a commercial entity such as the Fox Network has enough socio-political clout to make a whole generation suspicious of, and thus totally distrusting of, the powers that be? The more I think about it, the more unlikely it seems.

I have every reason to be paranoid; my telephones were tapped for a while in 1996 and possibly in 1999. So, forgive my paranoia, but could it possibly be that the powers that be in the US and the UK encouraged the popularity of the X-Files, and the vibrant culture of suspicion and paranoia that it engendered precisely because they would prefer to be suspected of colluding with extra terrestrials than be outright accused of something much nastier that the actually did do?

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The truth is out there (allegedly). Trust no-one (not even me).

Jon.
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,
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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.
• **A KING IS INJURED** Kings of Leon have postponed a concert after drummer Nathan Followill was injured in an accident on the band's tour bus. The group were en route to their hotel after a show in Boston when a pedestrian jumped in front of the vehicle, the group said in a statement. The bus had to "stop short" and Followill suffered broken ribs. Refunds were offered for fans who had tickets to Sunday's show in Saratoga Springs, New York. The band's statement said Followill was being treated for his injuries but "was doing well".

> Read on...

• **NO CHICKS ALERT** If Lily Allen hadn't stepped up at the last minute to fill in for Two Door Cinema Club's Friday night headline slot at Latitude in July, there would have been no woman headlining a major music festival this summer. In fact, without Paramore, the American punk rock band fronted by the flame-haired Hayley Williams and Arcade Fire, which featured two women in its Glastonbury line-up, there would be no women gracing major festivals' main stages in the top slot at all. Across Isle of Wight, Glastonbury, Latitude, Reading and Leeds Festivals, V Festival and Bestival, solo female artists comprise, on average, less than 16 per cent of the total acts playing. All-female bands make up less than a quarter of that figure, at 3.5 per cent. By comparison, all-male bands occupy nearly 43 per cent of the acts on the six festival line-ups. Mixed bands make up 15.9 per cent, and male solo artists nearly a quarter at 24.3 per cent.

> Read on...

• **AS TEARS GO BY** Marianne Faithfull has released a new video trailer promoting her new album Give My Love To London. The clip shows a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the album, and includes interview snippets with Faithfull herself. Give My Love To London is Faithfull's 20th album since beginning her career 50 years ago, and features a range of collaborations with artists including Adrian Utley, Brian Eno and The Bad Seeds. The 67-year-old will be embarking on a world tour later this year, beginning with October dates in Germany. Faithfull will also be playing a London show at the Royal Festival Hall on November 29. Give My Love To London will be released in the UK on September 29.

> Read on...

• **THIS CHARMING MAN** Morrissey has been dropped by his record label. In the statement, Morrissey thanked fans for making unofficial videos for his latest song and commented that "a similar document ought to have been harvested by the record label". In the same rant, he criticised meat consumption and spoke about "political stupidity". The 55-year-old recently came under fire for suggesting Jamie Oliver should be gassed.

> Read on...

• **LOST LEWIS** Synthpop singer-songwriter Lewis has been found alive and well after a reissue campaign. Real name Randall Wulff, Lewis's forgotten 1983 album L'Amour was recently re-released by Light in the Attic Records to high acclaim. However, Wulff's whereabouts remained unknown for several years, with some fans debating whether he was still alive or even a hoax by the label. Wulff - now going by the name of Randy - was eventually found in Canada after a tip from his old friends. "We found [Lewis] looking calm, cool and collected, sitting outside a little neighbourhood coffee shop drinking a large hot coffee," Light In The Attic said in a statement. "He had no idea about the recent interest in his old records and didn't seem to care in the slightest. We had a check for him but he wasn't interested... [He] said, 'I wish you guys all the best. [But] I'm not looking back.'" Fans also recently rediscovered Lewis's second album Romantic Times from 1985, which was then also reissued by the label in the summer.

> Read on...
"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
"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

When those who are in power over us, do something spectacularly stupid, or when something highlights their idiocy and ineffectualness, it turns up in this section. Que Ipsos Custodes? Us? We just make stupid jokes about them.

WE DO NOT CLAIM THAT ANY OF THESE STORIES ARE TRUE—ONLY THAT THE PEOPLE WHO POSTED THEM CLAIM THAT THEY ARE TRUE...

• WEL DUH! Learning to sing or play a musical instrument can help disadvantaged children improve their reading skills, US research suggests. After a year of music lessons, the reading scores of nine and 10-year-olds held steady compared to a dip seen in those who were not taught any music. Another group of musically-trained children were found to be better at processing sounds and language. The research is being presented to the American Psychological Association. We are finding that musical training can alter the nervous system to create a better learner... “The research was led by Dr Nina Kraus at Northwestern University and involved hundreds of children at high schools in impoverished areas of Chicago and Los Angeles.

• BACKYARD GARDENING THREAT

There once was a time when vegetable gardening and backyard farming were not endangered; these activities were a way of life. However, with booming big agriculture business comes the need for monetary and job security, which means that threatening the productivity of big agriculture will not be tolerated. With Michigan’s recent ban on backyard farming, along with many states regulating the amount of garden space individuals may have in their yard, the ability for Americans to grow their own food and feed themselves is becoming a thing of the past. The future of personal gardening and farming is in danger and may become illegal altogether. Michigan recently announced that it has made changes to its Right to Farm Act, which allowed home owners to keep a small amount of livestock on their property without being considered a nuisance, as long as the rules of the Act were followed. Chickens, beehives and goats will officially no longer be tolerated on the properties of urban and suburban farmers, due to the protection of the Right to Farm Act being lifted from small home farmers. Some Michigan farmers believe this new ruling is in place because large producers do not want individuals to provide for themselves or their families; the believed goal is to ensure all are dependent on grocers and mass producers.

Read on...

• IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FRACK ME...FRACK OFF

The British government’s decision to censor an official state report on the impact of fracking on UK property prices and regional services has roused sharp criticism from MPs and campaigners. As the government maintains its refusal to offer compensation to homeowners situated near proposed shale gas drilling sites, concerned citizens and campaigners are demanding the release of the full, unabridged study. Following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request tendered to the government, a draft of ‘Shale Gas: Rural Economy Impacts’ was recently published with extensive sections of the text missing. One particular section of the report, which examines the impact of fracking on house prices, has three entire segments missing.

Read on...
"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.
There has been no direct news from Daevid this week (but remember that because of the Weird Weekend, I am writing this several days earlier than I would have usually done it).

However, the Gonzo Grande Fromage Rob Ayling, telephoned me the other night and told me that he had skyped Orlando Allen a few days previously, and - much to his great delight - Daevid had answered the call.

Rob told me how he is tired but in very good spirits and looking forward very positively to the future. We are all terribly fond of Daevid here at the Gonzo Weekly and this is very positive news.

Daevid begins his radiotherapy (or Radio Gnome Therapy, as one of his many friends quipped on Facebook) today (Wednesday) but as I always get completely confused about time zones I wouldn’t like to hazard a guess whether he has had the first bout at time of writing or not.
Recently the legendary Merrell Frankhauser played a show in Palmdale deep in the Californian desert where his career began all those years ago. He sent us some exclusive photographs from his private collection, and to company them here is an excerpt from an interview published in ‘Something Else Reviews’.


BEVERLY PATERSON: You recently staged a reunion in Palmdale, California, that — as expected — brought about great reviews. How did this reunion happen, and what can you tell us about the show?

MERRELL FANKHAUSER: The Palmdale '60s bands reunion came about after I was contacted by the son of the owner of Glenn Records, Glen MacArthur Jr., who found several boxes of my master tapes from 1963 to 1966 stored in a freezer truck on his land way out in the little desert town of Rosamond. Glen closed up his studio in Palmdale in the mid-'90s, where he recorded my groups Merrell and the Exiles, and Fapardokly. He also recorded Buck Owens and rockabilly singer George Weston, and Ricky Nelson and Elvis Presley's guitar player James Burton, just to name a few. Glen Sr. died in 1999, and the tapes sat unnoticed in the freezer truck in the desert for years. I found several unreleased Merrell and the Exiles songs, and an outtake of a Fapardokly song that wasn't on the original album. I mastered the songs to CD, and it's coming out in October on the German Morning Dew Records on vinyl LP. It will also be out the end of August on CD. Glen Jr. also contacted Carla Weston, George Weston's daughter, and told her they found several boxes of her dad's tapes also. I helped Carla master 22 of her dad's songs that are now out on CD. Her dad died in 1999. Carla had the idea to get her dad's original band Second Wind back together, along with a local classic rock band Highway 138 and my band Merrell Fankhauser and Friends for a Antelope Valley '60s reunion concert. The Lancaster and Palmdale area was the early home of Captain Beefheart and Frank Zappa, who had a band there called the Omens in the very early '60s. Finding the unreleased tapes, and doing the reunion show, was like finding a lost treasure — and then going back in time and seeing fans and friends I hadn't seen in over 45 years. There was even a lady there that went to high school with Captain Beefheart! Original Exiles bass player Jim Ferguson joined us on stage for a couple songs. It was a complete success and everyone had a great time.
This week my favourite roving reporter has sent me an interesting update from Steve Rothery of Marillion:

The Ghosts of Pripyat album will be available from September 22nd but for anyone who pre-orders either version of the album, you'll receive a free download of the album as well.


The album tour starts off on the 4th October at the John Dee in Oslo followed by a concert in Vasteras, Sweden on the 6th. From the Copenhagen concert on the 15th October onwards I'll have the incredible vocal talents of Martin Jakubski from Stillmarillion joining me to play some old Marillion songs in the encores (tracks like Fugazi, Chelsea Monday and Incubus).

We'll also have the stunning Italian progressive rock band Ranestrane supporting us from the Hamburg concert on the 17th October onwards. It's going to be quite a tour! The London concert at the Bush Hall is nearing a sellout already.

Steve Hackett’s first Genesis Revisited album from 1996 is getting a limited edition re-issue by Inside Out on 180g audiophile vinyl on 1st September.

A CD of the album is also included inside the gatefold sleeve and Steve will be signing all pre-ordered copies.

Full details are on the HackettSongs webstore.

http://hackettsongs.sandbag.uk.com/Store/DII-4508-4-genesis+revisited+i++double+vinyl+edition+p reorder.html
These four pieces are the musical representation of masks that my friend Roger Evers created. Therefore, the titles are simply the images of these incredible masks." - Zoot Horn Rollo

The other players who made this happen:
Mark Schneider: Bass
Jason Palmer: Drums
Sergei Teleshev: Accordion
Brian McWhorter: Trumpet

Check out samples of the tracks on Zoot Horn Rollo's music page. You can also purchase them.
Says Tom Wheeler, Former Editor in Chief, Guitar Player Magazine, "The music Bill Harkleroad has created in recent years somehow evokes the earthiness and passion that made rock and roll so sensual in, say, 1956, and made surf music so irresistibly catchy in 1963, and turned 3-chord country standards into some of the most heartbreaking poetry ever to seep out of a roadhouse jukebox. His music would never be mistaken for vintage rock or surf or country, but it shares a soul connection with those styles, even while, like the music of Jimi Hendrix, it takes us not only to new places but to places we didn’t even know existed."


For more information: http://www.zoothornrollo.com/
The other day, the Gonzo Grande Fromage, Rob Ayling, went up to Edinburgh to see Lou Stein’s theatrical adaptation of Hunter Thompson’s “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.” There was an interview with Lou in last week’s magazine, and a feature on the play in #86. Now enjoy Rob’s words and pics:

Our fearless chief, regardless of huge personal risk to himself took the medium grey shark (maybe it was another colour, as it is in need of a car wash) aka the Gonzo Mobile to the Edinburgh Fringe festival on a Saturday. Despite facing multiple caravans, tractors etc on the A1, along with disillusioned Scots fleeing the country south with the cars full of 5 pound notes, before the in or out vote, he made it to the Scottish capital in one piece.

“What a trip!!! I was Lou Steins guest of honour for the day to the stage version of “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”. What a great version! As we all know F&L is one of the sacred texts that shouldn’t be messed with, (like doing a cover version of Stairway to Heaven) but Lou along with Terry Gilliam pulled it off. The show gets a whopping double thumb salute from me. So book your tickets now!” said Rob.

Now back to those caravans on the A1....

“I was only 30 miles away from Haddington before the Red Bull really kicked in”......
“Maybe it meant something. Maybe not, in the long run, but no explanation, no mix of words or music or memories can touch that sense of knowing that you were there and alive in that corner of time and the world. Whatever it meant.”
“Every now and then when your life gets complicated and the weasels start closing in, the only cure is to load up on heinous chemicals and then drive like a bastard from Hollywood to Las Vegas ... with the music at top volume and at least a pint of ether.”
Pound shop is victim to thief

A ROLL of tin foil was stolen from Poundland in Friargate in Preston.

The thief struck at 6pm on November 26.

The foil was worth £1.

Anyone with information about the shoplifter is asked to contact police.
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, nlxn@iol.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.

21-09-14 – SHOW 84 (LOST TO TECHNICAL PROBLEM – MOVED TO 21 SEPT)

Mae West Twist and Shout
Fuzzbox: International Rescue
September Girls: Sister
Cannonball Adderley Sextet: Primativo
Badly Drawn Boy: Silent Sigh
The Durutti Column Sea Wall
The Smiths: Well I Wonder
Rod Stewart and the Faces: As Long as you Tell Him
Be-Bop Deluxe: Crying to the Sky
Cannonball Adderley Sextet: Marney
Vitamin String Quartet: Cicatriz ESP
Idlewild: In Remote/Scottish Fiction
Arthur Askey: The Bee Song
Telepopmusik: Breathe
J Mascis and the Fog If That’s How it’s Gotta be
J Mascis and the Fog Free so Free
The Durutti Column Without Mercy 2
Cannonball Adderley Sextet: The Jive Samba
Chet Ning Chhun Vana
Tom Waits Bend Down the Branches

Listen Here

The week that’s past
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 Greece where, for some reason known only to himself, Tim believes they worship cows. He also postulates flatulent bees.
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:
- Cold Flame
  http://www.facebook.com/coldflameuk?fref=ts
- MOTR – FNP Exclusive!
  http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mysteries-Of-The-Revolution/13339313306
- Ritchie DeCarlo – FNP Exclusive!
  ref=discovery
- SYNCROMIND PROJECT
  http://www.facebook.com/
  http://www.facebook.com/SYNCROMINDPROJECT
- Michael Farrell
  http://www.facebook.com/m.smoothie?fref=ts
- United Progressive Fraternity
  http://www.facebook.com/UPFrat
- A Lonely Crowed
  http://www.facebook.com/alonelycrowd/timeline
- Elephants of Scotland
  http://www.facebook.com/elephantsofscotland
- Side Effects
  http://www.facebook.com/sideeffectszs
- Simplicity

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.
mixes from various musicians from the current music scene in Canterbury (Episode 2 features a mix from Neil Sullivan from Lapis Lazuli).

And for those of you who wonder what Matthew was referring to when he writes about Canterbury Soundwaves we have brought you all the back catalogue of that as well. Those wacky guys at Gonzo, eh?

EPISODE EIGHTEEN: Featuring Egg, Caravan, Kevin Ayers (solo, duetting with Lady June and playing bass with Soft Machine), a couple of short Hatfield pieces, a couple of Eno collaborations, an Italian Terry Riley soundalike, some millenial Afrobeat, live psy-trance from System 7 in Kyoto 2011, new music from Canterbury 2014 in the form of Kairo, Lapis Lazuli and Syd Arthur, plus a second hour-long mix of Stereolab and related projects from guest contributor LTJ Bunkum [sic].
Robin McLaurin Williams (1951 – 2014)

Williams was an American actor, stand-up comedian, film producer, and screenwriter.


Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor three times, Williams received the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Good Will Hunting. He also received two Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and five Grammy Awards. On August 11, 2014, Williams was found unresponsive at his residence in Marin County, California, and was pronounced dead at the scene. According to the Marin County's coroner's office, the probable cause of death was suicide by asphyxiation.

DEAD COMICS SOCIETY

BIG AS COCAINE IN THE 80s
ADDITIVE AS ALCOHOL
How many of us sat through his stand up? wondering when the mask of comedy would drop and personal tragedy provide more gossip?
CHILDERN RESPONDED TO HIS VOICE-OVERS- "Aladdin","Happy Feet","Robots","Fern Gully"
Adults to his emotional melodramas-"The Fisher King"
"Dead Poets Society","Good Morning Vietnam" (with an Academy Award for "Good Will Hunting")
His bread and butter run-of -the mill offerings-
"Awakenings"
"Mrs Doubtfire","The Birdcage","Patch Adams".Long as a line of coke.He started in TV's MORK &MINDY remaining that zany comedic alien stylings in FRIENDS and HOMICIDE.
He carried this fragile aura of the SAD CLOWN-tears in the greasepaint When he did serious roles like INSOMNIA,we did not know whether to laugh or cry He danced for us,laughed with us,his face iconic as Buster Keaton or Red Skelton But he was only ever Robin Williams,playing alien Mork on the stage of surreal absurdities Like the despair of his leaving us..silent .Dare we laugh now?

Thom the World Poet

THOSE WE HAVE LOST

33
on the AFI's 100 Years...100 Stars list by the American Film Institute. In 2009, she was selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to receive an Academy Honorary Award "in recognition of her central place in the Golden Age of motion pictures."

Bacall died on August 12, 2014, at the age of 89 after suffering a stroke.

**LIFE BEYOND BOGIE**

LAUREN BACALL WAS BEAUTIFUL
her on and off screen chemistry with Bogart legendary
When he died,she was with Frank Sinatra then married Jason Robards.
What was important was her life after that famous alliance.You saw those black and white noir movies(Key Largo,The Big Sleep/Dark Passage)
yet Lauren was also a fine stage actress (Goodbye Charlie/Sweet Bird of Youth)
and was in her own films (Misery/Diamonds/Dogville)right up to 2012
She also did TV(The Sopranos), made-for-TV movies—even French films.
She wrote two memoirs(By Myself/Now)
and led a life strongly independent of others right up to today.
Like Elvis, some only know the young black and white beauty
Lauren Bacall was a legend in her own right in our own time
@89 cycles round one sun, we will rescreen her triumphs
and compare each with our own lives. And Lauren will win!

Thom the World Poet

Lauren Bacall
(1924-2014)

Bacall born Betty Joan Perske; was an American film and stage actress and model, known for her distinctive husky voice and sultry looks.

She first emerged as a leading lady in the Humphrey Bogart film To Have and Have Not (1944) and continued on in the film noir genre, with appearances in Bogart movies The Big Sleep (1946), Dark Passage (1947), and Key Largo (1948), as well as comedic roles in How to Marry a Millionaire (1953) with Marilyn Monroe and Designing Woman (1957) with Gregory Peck. Bacall worked on Broadway in musicals, earning Tony Awards for Applause in 1970 and Woman of the Year in 1981. Her performance in the movie The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996) earned her a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award nomination.

In 1999, Bacall was ranked #20 of the 25 actresses on the AFI's 100 Years...100 Stars list by the American Film Institute. In 2009, she was selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to receive an Academy Honorary Award "in recognition of her central place in the Golden Age of motion pictures."

Bacall died on August 12, 2014, at the age of 89 after suffering a stroke.

**THOSE WE HAVE LOST**
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
Hugh Hopper started his musical career in 1963 as the bass player with the Daevid Allen Trio alongside drummer Robert Wyatt. There can be 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 Yamashita 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) distinguish 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

CYRILLE 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 Cameleon 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 Cyrille 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.

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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.

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**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:

“A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance.”

Hunter S. Thompson

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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.
Galahad are an English Progressive rock band formed in 1985. They have released 8 studio albums, 4 live albums and 3 rarities collections. Over the last 25 years they have played with the likes of Pendragon, IQ and Twelfth Night. Galahad have performed their own shows and at festivals in Europe and North America, and have sold tens of thousands of albums despite never having had a major record deal. All releases are on their own 'Avalon Records' imprint other than some re-issues which are released in association with Polish label 'Oskar Productions'. In 2012 and after 27 years of existence Galahad released their first ever LP 'Battle Scars' in conjunction with Ritual Echo Records, on high quality 180 gram vinyl, in a gatefold sleeve, as a limited edition pressing of 300 which is already fast becoming a collectors item.

Stuart Nicholson talked about Galahad's early days:

"...the band was formed just after the so called second wave of ‘Prog’ bands such as Marillion, Pallas, IQ, Twelfth Night, Pendragon etc. of Prog bands came to the fore in the early Eighties. They all started around 1978 – 1981 and we started in 1985 after the bubble had effectively burst, but didn’t really get going seriously until 1990 onwards. To be honest we really did play just for fun in the early days and weren’t really that concerned about record deals etc. It was only after playing with some of the bigger bands when we thought.

Actually, we are just as good as these guys so why not give it a go...”

Galahad have been through the wars recently; their longstanding bass player, Neil Pepper, died in 2011, being replaced recently by Tim Ashton, who played bass for the band between 1989 and 1992. Against the background of such personal turmoil, they have released two of a series of three EPs which are coming out this year and are writing new material for an album which will probably not come out until 2016.

Next year is the thirtieth anniversary of the band, and they are planning some extra special surprises for us all.

It seems to be a good time, therefore, to telephone main man Stuart Nicholson and have a chat about the band’s past, present and future……..
On a rainy day in 1974 when I was just 14 years old, one of my crowd’s older friends came down to our hangout with two records that would come to shape my musical tastes forever. One was Jethro Tull’s Aqualung, and the second was Rick Wakeman’s Journey to the Centre of the Earth. We sat transfixed by these exhilarating albums and in particular Rick’s “Journey” sounded fantastic, mystical, as a perfect blend of rock and classical music. This album started my own long journey as a collector of progressive rock music, focused first on the many practitioners who were mixing classical and rock forms to build large and dramatic soundscapes. It helped that early on in my own musical education I was exposed to Mozart, Bach, Stravinsky, and so many of the classical masters. To me, Rick’s music fits right into that pantheon.

Journey to the Center of the Earth was, then, for me the perfect record with which to start my collection. It combined the best of so many things we had all been discovering – a conceptual framework such as The Who’s Tommy, use of real symphony orchestra, and lots of that (then) “new” futuristic Moog synthesizer sound. Add narration dramatically delivered by actor David Hemmings, he of the film Camelot (1967) and so many others, and we have one of the most beloved prog rock epics of the era.

In 1998 EMI Classics commissioned Rick to create Return to the Center of the Earth. At our house, this became my son’s first purchase-upon-release CD as by the young age of 6 he had already been introduced to Rick’s Journey and Arthur. He was also very familiar with the narrator, Patrick Stewart, due to...
his role as the captain on the series Star Trek Next Generation. This album became a favorite in our home, with the spectacular instrumental “Dance of a Thousand Lights” as musical highlight.

Many readers will already be familiar with the fact that the original Journey album was taken from a live performance, and that a studio recording had not been attempted until 2012 after original sheet music and notations from the 1973 performances once thought lost, were found. It’s this new recording that is included in Rick’s new limited edition boxed set for Journey and Return. This album has been available since last year, and is now the subject of a new box set.

The set is a very nice collection of these two albums, Journey to the Center of the Earth (Studio, 2012) and Return to the Center of the Earth (1998). It arrives with a numbered certificate, a print from Roger Dean signed by both Rick and Roger, a lengthy booklet with writings by Rick, liner notes, all lyrics including narration, and several new and old photographs to chart this history. While I would have added more photos, the booklet itself is a nice read, and includes many gems from Rick – a few of these being:

 Rick dreamed of creating something like this after attending a performance of Peter and the Wolf to witness “the wonders of putting a story to music” Rick played on the live orchestral version of the Who’s Tommy at the Rainbow Theater in 1972, and Lou Reisner who produced that show, signed on the do Journey David Bowie’s advice to “listen to my own musical thoughts and dreams” was influential while navigating the path to Journey, itself an uphill battle In 2009 a battered and water damaged conductor’s case was sent to Rick from Australia with a score from the original Journey performances. Only 2 live performances of Return were staged – both in Canada (so you can’t always blame Canada!)

The boxed set includes a CD each for the albums Journey (Studio, 2012) and Return, which sit in one album sized binder with the booklet. Then, each recording is treated to a two album pressing, each pair in their own binder, without extra accompaniment. I’m not as much a fan of albums which span multiple disks, but these sound fantastic in this vinyl format – something we’ve gone back to over the last several years for our favorite recordings.

All in all a very nice presentation and wonderful set piece to any fan’s collection of Rick’s many works. To be complete, be sure to retain a copy of your original Journey recording from 1974, along with a good DVD pressing of that concert captured live in Australia (1975) – This is also available as part of the Rick Wakeman live box set from Gonzo. It’s a miracle that we have it for posterity given the number of important key progressive rock tours that were not filmed.

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.
Stu’s Top Ten

Rammstein – Mutter
Goldfrapp – Felt Mountain
Pink Floyd – The Wall
Muse – Origin of Symmetry
M83 – Hurry Up, We’re Dreaming
John Grant – Pale Green Ghosts
Arcane Roots – Blood & Chemistry
Led Zeppelin – Houses of the Holy
Carole King – Tapestry
POLITICS IS THE SCIENCE OF GOVERNMENT?

Just started reading this week's. Only got as far as the Editorial when I felt an uncharacteristic urge to respond in order to say that the "political" tones of your weekly newsletters, such as I have discerned them, have been completely welcomed by this reader. If fact, it is one aspect of this newsletter that I've taken particular notice of and have really, really appreciated. Any indications of sanity out there in our mad, noxious world are like pockets of fresh air in the cultural gas chamber we are otherwise forced to exist in.

To counter the apparent message of the reader who chastised you, I would say that to keep mum on these issues is now something like dereliction of duty. We NEED to talk about these things! What bothers me most about recent years is that so few folks with a public megaphone have seemed to be willing to voice the concerns that I am sure they have deep inside about the state of things and how the world is trending.

It's a safe bet that they ARE thinking about things, and are worried. And they are allowing themselves to be scared into silence (and complicity), which is precisely the opposite of what they should be doing. ... For crickey's sake, it's "progressive" rock, people! Progressive, right? ... Anyway, this is an exuberant "yea" vote for your inclusion of "political" issues. Thank you very much.

Carl Axel
374 W. Baltimore Ave.
Larkspur, CA 94939
carlaxel@comcast.net

Dear Carl,

That is very kind of you to say so. I would like to just note, however, that I sent a copy of last week's editorial to the person who originally wrote to me who was kind enough to comment:

“Very good answer. Thanks”

Which made me very happy.

There are too many people in this world trying to preach their own political message to people. As Paul McCartney once wrote:

“Too many people preaching practices
Don't let 'em tell you what you wanna be
Too many people holding back
This is crazy, and baby, it's not like me”

...and that is a first for me because I truly believe that whilst McCartney is one of the greatest composers of modern times, as a lyricist he is about as good as my dog Prudence. But occasionally he got it spot on.

I believe that the party political model of society has gone about as far as it can, and that countries across the world are facing government either by dictatorship or by theocracy, and I don’t really know which is worse.

However, there is a third way. I believe that if people treat each other with love, respect and consideration we can govern ourselves, and furthermore do so more economically and equitably than if we are governed from above.

A Quixotic ideal, maybe. What do I mean maybe? Of course it is a Quixotic ideal, but it is one to which I have dedicated my life over the past 30 years, and will continue to work towards for however much longer God in Her wisdom decrees that I am on the planet.

Om Shanti
When my son Joe was growing up we lived next door to an illustrator of children’s books and his family: his wife and their eight-year old son Frankie.

She was a Buddhist and we used to hear her chanting in the morning. It was hard to make out the words through the breakfast room wall. The tone, however, was like an hysterical vacuum-cleaner on hormone-replacement therapy, and the words sounded, to our uneducated ears, like "a-hole-in-yer-bum, a-hole-in-yer-bum, a-hole-in-yer-bum," repeated endlessly, over and over again.

They were a very right-on New Age family. Wholefood-eating vegetarians, pacifist, ecologically-minded. Little Frankie went to Steiner school.

Which is all well-and-good, you might say. Nothing wrong with child-centred education and "honouring the child", except that - deliberately or not - the whole thing was actually really cruel.

For instance, Frankie was made to wear backless clogs. Backless clogs! On an eight-year old!

Have you ever tried to run in backless clogs? And isn't this exactly what an eight-year old is supposed to do: to run, in the sheer exuberance of his existence, for the joy of being alive? It was like he was being deliberately crippled.

Poor little Frankie.

It was the same with the wholefood diet. What child do you know who likes brown rice and lentils? Joe always got exactly what he wanted. At least that way he got food into his mouth. He liked fish-fingers and chips. He liked bacon and eggs.

One day Frankie came round to play while Joe was eating his breakfast. Bacon and eggs and beans with a round of crusty white bread smothered in butter. And you could see it in Frankie’s eyes. His pupils were dilating. He couldn't keep his eyes off the food. He was just staring and staring at the food on the plate and at Joe as he was eating it. And then he was salivating, really salivating. The drool was dribbling from his mouth and over his chin. Great globs of spit dripping down over his chest, soaking into the bib-front of his multi-coloured dungarees.

Poor little Frankie. I would have loved to have given him a delicious plate of bacon and eggs too, only, of course, you cannot interfere.

He was also not allowed to play with guns. You name me a boy-child who does not like to play with guns. I won't go into the Freudian implications of this, except to say that it is perfectly healthy.

Almost anything can become a gun.

One day Frankie was round our house again, playing in the back garden. He had a stick, and he was making "dat-dat-dat" noises with his mouth, aiming the improvised "gun" at the washing pole.

"What are you shooting at Frankie?" I asked him.

"I'm shooting my mum," he said, tottering on his backless clogs. "I've tied her up to the pole and I'm killing her. Dat-dat-dat. Drrrrrr. Ka-pow!"

Poor little Frankie. I had to laugh though. At least he was getting his revenge.

Sometimes I wonder what became of Frankie. The family only stayed next-door to us for a year or two. I expect he's an arms-trading psychopath by now, with a passion for raw meat. I only hope he is not cruel to his own children.

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Which is all well-and-good, you might say. Nothing wrong with child-centred education and "honouring the child", except that - deliberately or not - the whole thing was actually really cruel.

For instance, Frankie was made to wear backless clogs. Backless clogs! On an eight-year old!

Have you ever tried to run in backless clogs? And isn't this exactly what an eight-year old is supposed to do: to run, in the sheer exuberance of his existence, for the joy of being alive? It was like he was being deliberately crippled.

Poor little Frankie.

It was the same with the wholefood diet. What child do you know who likes brown rice and lentils? Joe always got exactly what he wanted. At least that way he got food into his mouth. He liked fish-fingers and chips. He liked bacon and eggs.

One day Frankie came round to play while Joe was eating his breakfast. Bacon and eggs and beans with a round of crusty white bread smothered in butter. And you could see it in Frankie's eyes. His pupils were dilating. He couldn't keep his eyes off the food. He was just staring and staring at the food on the plate and at Joe as he was eating it. And then he was salivating, really salivating. The drool was dribbling from his mouth and over his chin. Great globules of spit dripping down over his chest, soaking into the bib-front of his multi-coloured dungarees.

Poor little Frankie. I would have loved to have given him a delicious plate of bacon and eggs too, only, of course, you cannot interfere.

He was also not allowed to play with guns. You name me a boy-child who does not like to play with guns. I won't go into the Freudian implications of this, except to say that it is perfectly healthy.

Almost anything can become a gun.

One day Frankie was round our house again, playing in the back garden. He had a stick, and he was making "dat-dat-dat" noises with his mouth, aiming the improvised "gun" at the washing pole.

"What are you shooting at Frankie?" I asked him.

"I'm shooting my mum," he said, tottering on his backless clogs. "I've tied her up to the pole and I'm killing her. Dat-dat-dat. Dat-da-daat. Drrrrrr. Ka-pow!"

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*Herald*

"The best guide to the Underground since Charon ferried dead souls across the Styx."

*Independent on Sunday*
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http://www.amazon.co.uk/Housing-Benefit-Hill-Other-Places/dp/190259343X

The Trials of Arthur:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Trials-Arthur-Revised-Ronald-Hutton/dp/0956416314/

Fierce Dancing:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fierce-Dancing-Underground-C-J-Stone/dp/0571176305/

The Last of the Hippies:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Last-Hippies-C-J-Stone/dp/0571193137/
In recent weeks I have been commenting, mostly in passing, about how, in the early 1990s, one of my favourite bands was Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine, often abbreviated to Carter USM. There were two of them (ok, they became a six piece later in their career, but let’s ignore that for now). The dynamic duo were Les Carter, known to all and sundry as Fruitbat apparently because he had big ears, and a bloke called Jim Morrison, who because he didn’t want to be mistaken for a “fat, dead, crap poet” was known to everyone as Jim Bob.

The band initially split up in 1998 after having released seven albums, but the two remained friends and have worked together intermittently ever since. Currently a show billed as the final ever, is scheduled for the Brixton Academy on the 22 November 2014.

But that’s all by the by. Excellent as their music was, I am not going to write about it. I was always impressed by Jim Bob’s portrayals of dole queue culture and the seamy underside of life in the big city.

So it shouldn’t really have come as a surprise that such a lyrical songwriter should have started a parallel career as a novelist. And a bloody good novelist he is too.

It is always difficult writing a review of a piece of fiction. The reviewer always wants to enthuse about the story he or she has just read but does not want to give away so much of the story as to mean that no one will want to buy it.

I certainly wouldn’t want to do that, because – in my humble opinion – this is the best piece of new fiction that I have read all year, and I have already recommenced it to several of my friends. So, I am going to do my best to critique the story whilst mentioning only a minimum of the plot.
The book is written in the first person by a fictionalised version of what Jim Bob would have been if he had not been a famous rock and roll singer. Living in Exeter with his girlfriend, he gets on with his life in a mildly alternative, vegetarian manner, and one gets the impression that he is pretty much contented. However, always there lurking in the shadow on the edge of the map of his social life is Jarvis Ham, his best friend from childhood, and one of those perpetual losers that we all have somewhere in our address books.

One of the bits that I saw written about this book on Amazon said that this “is a novel for anyone who has ever found themselves looking across at a childhood friend, and wondering why they still know them”.

I have found myself precisely in this situation. If anybody had told me twenty years ago that my relationship with my first wife would scupper, splutter and fail within a couple of years, that my relationship with an eminently respectable college lecturer would end with him screwing my second wife out of fifty grand, and my relationship with another old friend who was once a Liberal Town Councillor would end leaving me in the hole for over £11,000 but that my friendships with an on-off drug dealer from Bristol, and the bloke who used to run a brothel in New Zealand would still be going strong (and my feminist, drug-free wife would like both of them) I just wouldn’t have believed you.

So, I understand the predicament in which Jim Bob’s unnamed protagonist finds himself. Peculiarly the style of writing is closest to that in Spike Milligan’s War Memoirs (or at least I think so), and Jim Bob has the same deft turn of phrase whilst describing Jarvis Ham’s disastrous life through the flesh pots and hot spots of a South Devon I know only too well from my own past experience as did Milligan when describing his own role in General Montgomery’s North Africa Campaign.

This is a delightful book, and one which I very much look forward to dipping into and savouring for years to come. As soon as I am not embarrassingly skint (as a direct result of the machinations of the quondam Town Councillor mention above and his guttersnipe wife) I will bring my credit card into play and order his other two novels.
A theatre world located in Scotland has let it be known that a mysterious village called "Hawkwind by Sea" is completely cut off from the outside world by a storm, and the villagers are sheltering in the church hall where tea is served until the worst is over.

This "Hawkwind by Sea" village is actually a mythical entity and it's seemingly the audience who will be playing the part of the stranded villagers while taking part in what's being billed as a Murder Mystery.

The event's being held at the Orangefield theatre in Greenock, west of Glasgow.

Who-dun-its are often difficult to solve, but if one of the characters is holding a saxophone, some Hawkwind fans might be tempted to suspect him!

An additional mystery is that the tea is being served by someone known as the "Chutney Queen". What that name signifies, one hesitates to imagine...
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Greetings space travellers!
This is your Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport application form.

Please fill it in and return to Mission Control, at PO Box 617, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 7WA, together with two passport sized photographs, signed on the back and a 16cm x 11.5cm stamped addressed envelope.

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.

Pass. No. (Leave blank)

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Please give details of your occupation/profession for inclusion in crew register and possible duty roster (optional)

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THE WORLD OF GONZO ACCORDING TO

Mark Raines

SOME DINO THINGS HE CAN DRAW

GHOST MAN

CARTOONIST

JUST A POLISH OLD MAN?

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
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…

This is rather a lacklustre showing of news items this week, but it is only about half as many day’s worth of gleaning as usual. Never mind.

There is a collection of bits and bobs about the current tour and the new album which range from the lacklustre to the moderately enthusiastic, and an interview with Jon Davison.

It is beginning to look as if my stepdaughter Shoshannah and I are the only ones who actually like the new album...

- Yes Singer Jon Davison Discusses New Album 'Heaven & Earth' And All Things Prog-Rock [INTERVIEW]
- An argument for Yes belonging in the Rock hall of fame
- Yes - Hard Rock Live Hollywood - August 1
- Yes revives the sounds of two beloved albums
- Rock band Yes has been around a long time, and has a new vocalist

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!
JOURNEY & RETURN TO
THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

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 man-
egaged 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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- Double 180gm heavyweight LP of the newly recorded Journey To The Centre Of The Earth,
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images & AND a numbered certificate of authenticity all packed in full colour case bound 12" gatefold
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ALL TITLES CAN BE PRE-ORDERED FROM WWW.RICKWAKEMANSMUSICEMPORIUM.COM
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!!"

HEAT, WAVING

OTHERS CRY OF STORMS, SELECTIVE
Our rain barrels, neglected
seek sweet drops to Fall as gifting
Blue eye skies, white sun unrelenting
When we saw one tiny frog
try to leap a concrete rise
Only with the help of hands
made it to another land
Emotions clog like August heat
Skin pores sweat/seek relief
There go days to bucket loss
Dehydrated, dry as dusty gardens
Eden also Armageddon
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...

“You don’t have to act with me, Steve. You don’t have to say anything and you don’t have to do anything. Not a thing. Oh, maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle, don’t you Steve? You just put your lips together, and blow.”

Vale Lauren Bacall
And he is at it again:

“Conservative rocker Ted Nugent on Thursday lashed out at Native Americans who protested one of his South Dakota concerts, calling them “stinkyass unclean dipshit protestors.”

“Nugent wrote, according to Media Matters. “Simply astonishing gig! 4 stinkyass unclean dipshit protestors that admitted they hate me AND ALL WHITE PEOPLE THAT STOLE THEIR LAND BULLSHIT!!”

“See, it ain’t me they hate, they hate all Americans that produce & live the American Dream. Simply insane!”

“Sure, Nugent has a right to free expression under the First Amendment. But no matter what your political views, every citizen also has a right and in a democracy, a civic responsibility to protest, bigotry and intolerance,” organizers noted. “That’s why we are urging everyone to add their voice, speak out, and join in protest of the appearance of this man and his vile stream of hate speech in our community!” Continued.....

What a charming specimen he is.

Meanwhile, during karaoke evening down at the nearby club, folks laughed their socks off as a guy – who looked remarkably like Ted Nugent - pathetically tried to impersonate one of the Village People. Oh wait, it is Ted Nugent: Theodore Nugent (two interesting anagrams of which are Dungeon Thereto, or even Dethrone Tongue). Oh yes indeedy doody, this guy really does need his tongue removed.

THE BITCH IS BACK
If it's groovy... it's in!

“Mad, bad & dangerous” (Available for the first time on DVD)
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TONY PALMER’S FILM OF
FRANK ZAPPA

EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND

EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND

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MAN

MAN

THE STEVE HILLAGE BAND
Live at The Gong Family Convention

VAN DER GRAAF GENERATOR
Live at The Paradiso

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THE FABRIC

ANTHONY PHILLIPS

RICK WAKEMAN

SPIRITS BURNING

HAWKwind

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who wears costumes that would perhaps be more appropriate if she were dancing on a pole in some club somewhere?"

Trouble with people like her though is that the more folks complain, the more outrageous she will continue to be. Human nature I suppose. I feel sorry for any children she may have in the future. What child wants to open up a scrapbook of mom’s life and find mater swinging stark naked on a wrecking ball? Not exactly a coffee table book, but then again I imagine that would depend in what sort of establishment the table was situated.

The Rolling Stones Caricature Figures - £22.00

“These are my Rolling Stones figures set they are in very good condition and have been on display for years but a clear out forces a sale I hope someone else can enjoy these happy bidding”

What a jolly set of figures. I am going to refrain from calling them sweet, because the word ‘sweet’ does not seem synonymous with The Rolling Stones in any way, shape or form.

Buy them here if they jollify you….

Janis Joplin plastic figure. - £2.50

“Plastic mounted figure of Janis Joplin, made by McFarlane Toys in 2000. Good condition, but no box. Approximately 23 cm tall, the base is approx. 18 cm wide.”

Not a lot of Janis Joplin memorabilia out there is about all I can say really.

Check her out here:

Miley Cyrus Wrecking Ball Loom charm/keyring – 99p

“Miley Cyrus on wrecking ball, made entirely from loom bands. Ideal keyring/charm for Miley fans or for loom band collectors.”

Well shiver me timbers.

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME

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

Check it out now…
This is a bit of an abomination and no mistake. Good grief. Clever bit of loom-banding no doubt, but cor blimey, Mrs Jones…..

First tat rating of the day and it’s…..Mega,

**BOB MARLEY ACTION FIGURE Jamaica Music Reggae Legends Toy Doll Collection 6”**

US $27.98 (Approximately £16.66)

*Bob Marley Figure.*
*6 Inch / 17cm Tall.*
*Action Figures FG138.*
*Legends Jamaica Singer.*
*Material: PVC*

Now this is cool.

But then I found this and I went off on a look-alike tangent again. And I thought ey up…is that really supposed to be our Bob on the left ‘cos it looks just like Russell Brand to me?
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GARBLE

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* Music
* Quiz
* Live Bugfest

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* 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
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<td>7 - 7.15</td>
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<td><strong>Silas Hawkins:</strong> A bedtime story from Richard Freeman's <em>Hyakumonogatari</em></td>
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<td>3.30 - 4.30</td>
<td><strong>Glen Vaudrey:</strong> The Mystery Animals of Cheshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.30 - 5.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.00 - 5.15</td>
<td><strong>Results of nature walk (Lars/Nick/Jon)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.15 - 6.00</td>
<td><strong>Ronan Coghlann:</strong> The Amphibians from Outer Space</td>
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<td>6.00 - 6.15</td>
<td><strong>Jon Downnes:</strong> Keynote Speech</td>
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<td>6.30</td>
<td><strong>Raffle</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Speaker’s Dinner</strong> at the Small School</td>
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<td><strong>PLUS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Art exhibition from Hunt Emerson</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Art Exhibition from Glen Vaudrey</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Featured music spotlight from 4th Eden</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Tunnel of Goats</strong></td>
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More attractions to be announced.
CLASSIC LOST BROADCAST RELEASES FROM

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

THE LOST BROADCASTS

Featuring archive performances that have rarely been seen since their original German TV transmission along with previously unbroadcasted takes and different versions of performances that were transmitted.

INcredible String Band
CAPTAIN BEEFHEART & HIS MAGIC BAND
FRANK ZAPPA
CURVED AIR

ATOMIC ROOSTER
RICHIE HAVENS
THE BYRDS
THIRD EAR BAND
JOHN MAYALL

ERIC BURDON AND WAR
IRON BUTTERFLY
STEPHEN STILLS & MANASSAS
NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SNAKE
SPOOKY TOOTH

LIVE ISS. WHY NOT TUNE INTO GONZO WEB RADIO

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Distributed by
MESETIAH

*TESIS*
(INVERSE RECORDS)

Formed in 2008, death metal band Mesetiah are from Kokkola, Finland, and are obviously heavily influenced by the Florida death metal scene, and the likes of Pantera, Sepultura among many.

What makes them stand out from many of today’s scene is that there is a real groove in what they are producing, combining that with a rawness and (dare I say it) commerciality to their songs. While they are undoubtedly heavy, there is the feeling that these guys have much more to offer than just heads down, get rid of the dandruff, and see you at the end. Following on from two full-length albums, the guys have now just released this six track EP through Inverse Records and this is something that could well get them a great deal of attention. Reminiscent in some ways of The Haunted, this is a short form introduction to a band that just keep growing in stature. They are definitely worth keep an eye on as their next album could be very powerful indeed if this material is anything to go by. For more details, visit www.inverse.fi

ONWARD

*EVERMOVING*
(PURE STEEL RECORDS)

Onward was created in 2000 in Montana/USA by guitarist Toby Knapp and singer Michael Grant (later of Crescent Shield), with the line-up being completed by bassist Randu laFrance and drummer Jon Pereau. They must have made an impact quiet quickly as they were soon signed to Century Media who released this their debut album in 2001. They followed it up with a second just a year later but didn’t last much past that and soon imploded. Now in 2014, German label Pure Steel Records has decided to release both of these as limited edition vinyl copies and I am currently listening to the debut. Musically this is a mix of power metal and NWOBHM, and if I had been given this to listen to and asked to guess when it was released I would have pushed for some time in the early Eighties, certainly not past the millennium.

There is a naivety that pervades the album, which is probably gives it the earlier feel, as although they have been compared in some quarters with Jag Panzer they just don’t have the same drive and power that one would expect from that band. Possibly this is why they didn’t succeed as much as one might think, as even being signed to a metal heavyweight such as Century Media there is not enough here to really lift it, which is a shame as Toby is a fine guitarist and with some pushes in the right direction they might have become a force to be reckoned with. As it is, what we have is an album that is good, but not great.
**THE WORLD OF KEV ROWLAND**

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**ANOTHER ADVENTURE**

**P J Rasmussen**

What we have here is the second album by guitarist and band leader PJ Rasmussen, but if I hadn’t told you which instrument he played, then one might imagine that he is actually a brass musician as it is often the horns that stand out on this album. While it is pretty much a given on a jazz album that everyone can play, I mean really play, some bands let themselves down by poor arrangements or letting everyone hog the limelight, but that is definitely not the case here. There are times when there is a need for a certain instrument to shine, and others where it is better if it is absent and PJ certainly understand this. I mean, this is his album, yet on “Love Birds” he stays quiet for the first four minutes!

In many ways this is a look back in time, as he has obviously been greatly influenced by Blue Note, and he has taken that as a starting point and has created an instrumental album that is incredibly well scored, with everyone having their place and no room for egos. This is all about ensemble jazz where each musician knows their job, and what their performance brings to the overall sound. There is no point where the listener becomes aware that the person behind this incredible album is only 23 years old, as he leads his band through classic jazz that is passionate and polished, well crafted and scripted but somehow not constrained. It is really hard to pick out a highlight as the whole album is just so good, and I know that this is going to be a persistent visitor to my player. It is full of texture, vibrancy and bounce, and each time I play it I find something new to enjoy and find that I am listening with a smile on my face as this is sheer controlled joy. Jazz rarely gets much better than this, and if he is doing this when he is so young just what the future hold for him? For more details visit his website at www.pjrasmussen.com

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**SPRAGUE DAWLEY**

**REDEFINE ME**

(SECRET ENTERTAINMENT)

Formed back in 2008, this is the debut from this Finnish group, who are mixing hard rock and grunge with a punk feel. Strangely they start the album with an instrumental, and at that time I was thinking that maybe that was going to be the way that the album was going to come across, but the vocals came in on the second song and I was soon wishing that they had stayed with the instrumental feel. I’ve never been a fan of singers such as Liam Gallagher, yet vocalist/guitarist Janne Nurmi obviously feels quite differently. The result is an album that I listen to only because I have to: I am sure that in the late Seventies/early Eighties I was hearing a lot of this type of music and I wasn’t a fan of it then either. The production isn’t as good as it could be, and whoever thought that it would be a good idea for the cymbals to be as high in the mix as they are (especially on “Come Clean”) obviously doesn’t hear this the same that I do. This is for fans only, and if this is the best after six years I’m not sure I would want to hear another album from them. www.inverse.fi

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Woodscream

Alexander Klimov founded Woodscream in 2006 in St. Petersburg. The “band’s music presents a tuneful union of different styles of contemporary metal, incorporating different elements of European folk traditions and gloomy atmosphere of medieval legends, which are the solid basis of Woodscream lyrics.”

Band members are:

Valentina Tsyganova – vocal & recorder
Anastasia Smelova – violin
Alexander Klimov – guitar & scream
Ivan Budkin – bass & growl
Pavel Malyshev – drums

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/woodscream

Metal Archives
http://www.metal-archives.com/bands/Woodscream/3540313501

The Ballad of Shannon River (Folk Metal)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUfv4Mnwsw

Равновесие
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ61DH2i_jY
And so another issue shudders towards completion. It is over 36 hours earlier than usual; it is Thursday lunchtime and people are beginning to arrive for the weirdest of all weekends. The weather forecast on Metcheck says:

But in nine years of holding the WW cocktail party in my garden we haven’t been rained off yet.

I have now done my bits to this issue of the magazine, and am proud to attest that like the Windmill Theatre in London during the Blitz, we never close.

Things will, I sincerely hope, be back to normal next weekend and we will continue wending our merry way through life, music and culture relatively unscathed.

Thank you for your forbearance this week, it is most appreciated...

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