As Phil Collins releases his autobiography, Doug critiques it and remembers the glory days of Brand X, Alan examines a Portuguese book about The Beatles, but ARW postpone their SF show, John is less than enthusiastic about Kate Bush, Corinna finds some good shit, and Jon sneers at Tex Watson!

PHIL: NOW AND THEN
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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
YER BIG ‘DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF WASSNAME’ ALERT

This year, for a plethora of reasons, mostly concerned with family matters, there will be a slightly different Yuletide publishing schedule than usual:

The bumper Christmas Issue (#213/4) will be published on or about the 17th December, following which issue 215 will come out on the 7th January.

This will give the editorial staff time to embalm themselves in brandy or whatever takes their fancy.

Slainte
Dear Friends,

Welcome to a new edition of yer favourite (or at least it is my favourite, and I would like to think that it is yours as well) magazine. And, as I say on quite a regular basis, it is a magazine which never fails to surprise me by going off at tangents that I was not expecting.

The immortal G K Chesterton once wrote: “Journalism is popular, but it is popular mainly as fiction. Life is one world, and life seen in the newspapers is another”, and it is truly hard not to agree with him, so I shall not even try. I guess that I always knew that, even when I first decided to put my first tentative steps down on the path to a journalistic career in the wake of reading Jennings and Darbishire by Anthony Buckeridge back in the autumn of 1968. My first journalistic exclusive was when I wrote a massively dull three paragraph diatribe on the victory of the school’s football team against one of the other English schools in Hong Kong, and the nine year old me felt very grown up and journalistic standing on the touchline writing very dull prose about the action unfolding before my eyes, for my weekly magazine, The Class Six Times. It probably didn’t help that I had (and still have) no interest in sport whatsoever, and was only writing it at the behest of my form mistress. It also didn’t help that I had no knowledge of the noble game if Association Football, didn’t know any of
the rules so that I couldn’t follow the action and didn’t know (and didn’t care) what the bloody hell was going on, and was - in any case - completely sidetracked by the tiny trickle, far too small to be called a brook or a stream that ran down the side of the school playing field, and which - despite its size - was full of a dazzling plethora of minuscule life forms, which were far more interesting to me than whether or not Jones Minor was off side.

By the way, the aforementioned magazine existed in an edition of one copy affixed to the class notice board with drawing pins, in the grand tradition of school newspapers described by the aforementioned Anthony Buckeridge, and - much earlier - by Talbot Baines Reed.

This last weekend, however, I had a brilliant example of how things had changed over the (very nearly) half century between my dull expose of a dull football match in Hong Kong….

I remember “interviewing” the aforementioned Jones Minor after the game:

ME: What did you think of the game?

JONES MINOR: It was alright
ME: Are you pleased you scored the goal?
JONES MINOR: Yes
ME: Did you enjoy the game?
JONES MINOR: It was alright

And to heap coals of opprobrium upon my nascent journalistic skills, I neglected to write who had won the game (mainly because I was fascinated by the antics of a small family of water beetles and had completely missed most of the second half).

…… and last weekend’s issue of the magazine featuring the immortal Nico (OK, I am using the word ‘immortal’ here in a peculiarly figurative sense, because she died, aged fifty, in 1988).

On a personal level, I am now a far better writer and editor than I was forty eight years ago, partly because there is no tiny silvery stream to distract me with vistas of mosquito larvae, water scorpions and web spinning caddis fly larvae, and partly because I am interested in what I am writing about, and the people whom I have the honour to interview are far more interesting verbal sparring partners than was Jones Minor (aged 10).
But something else has changed. In fact, the whole face of the bleeding world has changed. 1968 was also my Paternal Grandmother’s 75th (I think) birthday, and my Father (being a relatively senior bod in Her Majesty’s Overseas Civil Service) managed to arrange an international telephone CLI so that we could wish the old lady a Happy Birthday.

This was a massively complicated, and expensive, issue. My memory is vague, but I believe that the call had to be booked in advance through my Papa’s paymasters, and we all had to be vetted to make sure that we were indeed telephoning a legally blind old lady living in Chester, rather than some member of the Communist hordes who were positioned just across the border in the People’s Republic of China.

The great day came, and we had to wait until the middle of the night due to the massive inconvenience of the world being roughly spherical, and Victoria Peak, Hong Kong and Cheyney Road, Chester being almost equidistant to each other. Then, each of us, in turn, wished my Grandmother a happy birthday, and I remember her being almost as effusive and loquacious as Jones Minor had been, before - after only a few more mildly embarrassing minutes - my father replaced the receiver and we all went to bed.

On Friday evening I had just finished doing the posts to Facebook which notify the great and the good of rock and roll that the latest issue of this peculiar little magazine wot you are reading at this very moment was ready to be read. When the annoying “BING” sound that the computer makes every time an instant message came through, I glanced down at it irritably. We were waiting for the arrival of my elder stepdaughter - Shoshannah - and I was heartily sick of what had been a long and tedious week. But then I saw that it was a message from my friend and colleague Doug Harr in California.

I severely doubt whether there is anyone who has read this peculiar little magazine more than once who DOESN’T know who Doug is. He has been a stalwart member of the Gonzo Weekly team for the best part of three years, and in those three years we have become good friends and once even took my ageing Mama-in-
The message came through from Doug: “Trying to get hold of Rob - one of ARM is sick tonite so they postponed show”. 

Doug was messaging me from his hometown of San Francisco, where he was supposed to be meeting the *grande fromage* and attending a concert by Anderson, Rabin and Wakeman. We have had such a terrible year for my favourite celebrities, I immediately thought the worst, And so I asked him whether he could get any more information.

About five minutes later he wrote: “A source now says its Trevor who has a virus, which is good news as he seems a healthy guy who will recover quickly”.

And then I found that a message had been posted on Rick Wakeman’s Facebook page:

”Due to Trevor Rabin still recovering from a nasty virus, the ARW show tonight in San Francisco has been cancelled and is being rescheduled for Sunday 4th December.”

And so the whole practise of being a journalist has gone a long way. Yer aspiring journalist no longer has to be distracted by waterlife, or interview Jones Minor. All he has to do is to sit in a badly converted potato shed, with a small Jack Russell terrier on his knee, and know the rudiments of how to use social media.

I am sure that there is a moral there somewhere, but I’m not sure what it is.

Love on ya

JD
In this lavishly illustrated celebration of classic and progressive rock bands of the 1970s, author Doug Harr shares his vivid memories of the mind-altering rock spectacles he witnessed in his hometown of Los Angeles—the City of Angels—at the genesis of a new art form. Get a front-row seat at three-dozen spectacular concerts and the albums that spawned them. Revisit these legendary records and concerts along with reviews of the best video documents of the era, each hand-illuminated by a hand-picked collection of brilliant images—most never-before seen—by the era’s best rock photographers. This 396-page hardcover book is nearly the size of an LP cover and features over 600 images. Foreword by Armando Gallo.

Available at Amazon and ConsoMultimedia.com
Preorder begins December 2016; wide release January 2017

Rockin’ the City of Angels features the work of some of the rock era’s greatest photographers, including Richard E. Aaron, Jörgen Angel, Fin Costello, Ian Dickson, Armando Gallo, Stacey Katsis, Terry O’Neill, Neal Preston, Michael Putland, Jim Summarij, Lisa Tanner, Brian Weiner, Neil Zlozower and more!
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)
Douglas Harr,
(Features writer, columnist)
Bart Lancia,
(My favourite roving reporter)
Thom the World Poet,
(Bard in residence)
C.J. Stone,
(Columnist, commentator and all round good egg)
John Brodie-Good
(Staff writer)
Alan Dearling,
(Staff writer)
Mr Biffo,
(Columnist)
A J Smitrovich,
(Columnist)

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:

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No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. So make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY.
This revelatory anthology of electric-folk/garage-psychedelic alchemists Marvin Gardens easily warrants oft-overused terms like “lost gem”, and “buried treasure”. Comprised of never-before-heard Warner Bros. audition demos, an extremely rare, self-released, seven-inch EP (only 100 were pressed), and an inspired live performance from the legendary Matrix club in San Francisco, 1968 captures virtually all recorded evidence of a dynamic and mesmerizing band that existed for only a couple years at the tail end of the '60s.

By the end of 1967, the major San Francisco rock bands – Jefferson Airplane, The Grateful Dead and Quicksilver Messenger Service – had all been signed to major labels and a “second wave” of bands were bubbling up in the clubs and ballrooms around the Bay Area. Marvin Gardens was one of those scrappy newcomers; in fact all but one of the members grew up in the city. The influence of those local bands and the legacy of the eclectic music scene are audible here – strands of molten Quicksilver, the Dead’s cosmic blues, Big Brother’s grand gestures and the city’s open-hearted folkie past. But Marvin Gardens went even deeper than that: there was a youthful, gritty garage-rock stance, a gently ironic wink, and a humble sincerity to their sound that their forebears had moved away from. Also on hand are glorious shadings of The Velvet Underground (early and later era), The Charlatans, and The Lovin’ Spoonful – all in all, a very natural amalgam of '60s earth-wind-and-fire sonic sensibilities.

But the plume feather in their cap, was lead singer Carol Duke. She was a wisecracking lesbian from Lubbock, Texas, with a deep knowledge of folk music, the vocal power and conviction of Grace Slick and Janis Joplin, and a spine-tingling pop-melodic purity that rivaled Mama Cass and Carole King. Duke was a natural, with a large repertoire of material, including songs by Buffy Saint Marie, Odetta, Bob Dylan, Lead Belly, Hoagy Carmichael and an eclectic and seemingly-endless range of pre-war blues, country and folk numbers. The band jumped right on and into these tunes – often without ever hearing the originals – and intuitively crafted sonically adventurous and emotionally compelling versions that completely stand on their own. You can hear that vital creative spark on both the studio tracks and the marvellously vivid live material herein.

With their catchy folk melodic sensibility, primal rock instincts, and lead singer nonpareil, Marvin Gardens could have continued to grow as artists and make a serious mark locally and nationally. But they never “made it” past the '60s or even much beyond the Northern California music scene. Apart from a handful of dedicated local enthusiasts and a warm embrace by the Gay Biker Club scene (Whips And Leathers, MG’s sole original was a celebration of that nascent movement), the band never achieved escape velocity. They gently fizzled out and went their separate ways, like most groups do, without a fuss.

As of 2012, Marvin Gardens was just a hazy memory. The band’s former members and followers believed that all the glorious music they played from 1968-69 had been completely forgotten. And they were right... almost. Thanks to some die-hard fans, archivists and true believers, one of the coolest bands you’ve never heard of is finally getting its debut. High Moon Records has created the ultimate document of a group that should have been a bigger deal and still very much deserves to be heard.

LORETTA STONED: Country music icon Loretta Lynn thought she was going to die after taking a hit of marijuana for the first time at the age of 84. The veteran singer was prescribed a medical marijuana joint earlier this year (16) to help relieve the pain of her eye condition glaucoma, but she took too big a hit and was turned off the drug for good. “I got glaucoma and they gave me one of these cigarettes,” she tells People magazine. “I took one smoke off of it and it hit me right here in the chest... Glaucoma is just going to have to take over.” It’s not Loretta’s only health issue these days - the star recently had to cancel a series of concerts after suffering a fall at her Tennessee home in August (16). But she has no plans to take it easy - or even call it quits. “They tell me to rest all the time,” Lynn explains. “But I’m not tired!”

FESTIVAL PRINCE: Prince’s life will be celebrated at his Paisley Park home and recording studio complex in Minnesota on the first anniversary of his death in April (17). Family and friends are planning a four-day festival at the compound, Celebration 2017, which will begin on 20 April (17), will feature performances from Prince’s bands The Revolution and 3rdEyeGirl, and longtime pal and Purple Rain co-star Morris Day. More acts will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

Stevie Wonder and Chaka Khan headlined the first official Prince tribute concert following the singer’s death at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, last month (Oct16). Chaka was one of the first acts to take to the stage, and delighted the audience as she brought Stevie out to duet with her on I Feel For You - the Prince song that was a hit for Chaka back in 1984. The couple also performed one of Prince’s most beloved songs, 1999.

"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
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 man himself…

"Who does vote for these dishonest shitheads? Who among us can be happy and proud of having all this innocent blood on our hands? Who are these swine? These flag-sucking half-wits who get fleeced and fooled by stupid little rich kids like George Bush?

They are the same ones who wanted to have Muhammad Ali locked up for refusing to kill gooks. They speak for all that is cruel and stupid and vicious in the American character. They are the racists and hate mongers among us -- they are the Ku Klux Klan. I piss down the throats of these Nazis.

And I am too old to worry about whether they like it or not. Fuck them."

Hunter S. Thompson

RIGHT ON NEIL: Neil Young has taken to Facebook to publish a lengthy opinion of the situation at Standing Rock and president-elect Trump. Starting off with the fiction that is built
around the Thanksgiving tradition, Young then goes on to talk of the treatment of the Native Americans and their supporters at the Standing Rock protest, calling on President Obama to end the attacks on the protesters.

He holds his harshest words for Trump whom he refers to as the “Surprise President”. Pointing out that he did not win the popular vote and, therefore, doesn’t have a mandate for his policies, Young goes on to criticize the new president’s lack of belief in climate change.

The full statement as signed by Young and his significant other, Daryl Hannah:

Tales of a feast on Plymouth plantation in the Autumn of 1621, where of pilgrims from the Mayflower, celebrated the harvest, shared and broke bread with the first Americans are false. They are still used as inspiration and shared with children, teaching them the beauty of gratitude. But it is now widely understood this Thanksgiving story is a fictional history. It was invented to whitewash the vicious genocide wrought upon the native inhabitants of this magnificent continent. Not only did the Europeans try to eradicate native populations, but they made every effort to eviscerate their culture, their language and eliminate them from these coveted lands. Read on...

**BYE BYE GOD:** It’s not unusual for an artist to say they are retiring and then drawing out that final tour for years. Eric Clapton is pushing his farewell into a second year but swears that “This is it. No more.” Clapton will play four U.S. shows, two in
New York and two in Los Angeles, in 2017. Joining him for the dates will be special guests Gary Clark, Jr., and Jimmie Vaughan along with his band of Walt Richmond, Steve Gadd, Nathan East, Chris Stainton, Sharon White and Michelle John.

As to whether this is really the end or not, Clapton said in a statement:

I swear this is it, no more.... I know I've been threatening retirement for the last fifty years, but I didn't think I'd ever really want to stop. I love what I do and always have done, but over the last few decades I've found what I was always really looking for, a loving family who love me just the way I am, which means I can relax and rest when I need to, and more and more I treasure the beauty of that.... Hopefully, I might be able to remember and breathe some life into this old stuff.... in truth believe me, with these great guys to play with, I'll be having the time of my life!

Read on...

KATE ON DAVE: Kate Bush has paid tribute to the "bravery and power" of late singer David Bowie. The Wuthering Heights star was an acquaintance of Bowie's and, along with millions of fans worldwide, was left devastated when he died aged 69 in January (16) after a short battle with cancer. Remembering her pal as the year anniversary of his death fast approaches, Kate said in an interview with The Fader that her admiration for Bowie is eternal.

"I was asked whether I would write something, and because he meant such a lot to me, I really felt moved to do so," Kate said. "He was one of my great heroes when I was growing up. He was such a brave artist, so unusual, and I loved his music. I met him a few times; he was really charming and playful. But I just sort of admired what he achieved creatively." Prior to his tragic passing, Bowie completed his album Blackstar, which was released two days before his death. The record was widely praised by critics, and Kate thinks it is the singer's best offering of his career. "One of the most powerful things that I heard recently was Blackstar by Bowie," Kate added. "I thought it was beautiful. Very moving of course, but I think one of the best things he's ever done." Read on...
CHILI COMES UP TRUMPS
http://tinyurl.com/jbk9yrg
Woman rescues red pepper Donald Trump from vegetarian chilli. Then cruelly cooks him in Mexican-inspired dish

It was just an ordinary evening for Janet Ayers in Portsmouth, preparing a vegetarian chilli for dinner. Ingredients included a trio of peppers – red, green and yellow – from Waitrose. So imagine Janet’s horror on slicing the red Capsicum to find the twisted and toothy mug of US president elect Donald Trump screaming at her. Incarnate. “It was going into a vegetarian chilli,” Ayers informed The Register.

“A discussion about Trump and the state of the world was going on while the veg was being sliced up. It was as if the pepper was mirroring the conversation.” Janet’s response? Naturally: shock. Repulsion. Then a quick photo that she posted to Facebook. It was a cursed and portentous Waitrose trip.

THE LAST DAUGHTER OF THE 19th CENTURY
http://tinyurl.com/zz8b9da
Italian Emma Morano, whose life spans three centuries, says her secret to longevity is not eating much “because I have no teeth”

Morano, the last known person alive who was born in the 19th century, has celebrated her 117th birthday.

Born on 29 November 1899, four years before the Wright brothers first took to the air, she is the world’s oldest living person. Her life has spanned three centuries, two world wars and over 90 Italian governments. And the secret to her longevity appears to lie in eschewing usual medical wisdom.

“I eat two eggs a day and that’s it. And cookies. But I do not eat much because I have no teeth,” Morano said last month at her home in Verbania, a town in northern Italy on Lake Maggiore.

FIXING A HOLE
http://tinyurl.com/zy8n6fw
When you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss also gazes into you.

Cards Against Humanity, the maker of the game of the same name, announced last week it would be celebrating Black Friday by digging a giant, pointless hole in the ground.

The company named it the Holiday Hole, and said it would dig the hole for as long as people were willing to pay for it. The dig lasted for days and ended on Sunday.

Before the dig was stopped, donations began to dwindle, but for more than a week the money piled up, as has all the displaced dirt next to the hole – the location of which Cards Against Humanity has not disclosed. According to the website, the initiative has brought in $100,573.
Grants were approved by the DRILL Central Research Committee, which is chaired by Professor Tom Shakespeare. He said:

"Historically, research led by disabled people has been instrumental in influencing policy and practice, from the first Disability Discrimination laws 20 years ago to policies to give disabled people more choice and control over our own support.

"We are delighted to announce 10 new research projects led by disabled people, on topics ranging from how best people with learning difficulties can be supported to take decisions – rather than have those decisions taken out of their hands – to what would better support Asian disabled women to lead full lives. We sometimes find the questions posed by disabled people are different from those posed by non-disabled academics, and so this research has the potential to answer questions of most concern to disabled people.

http://tinyurl.com/hu7bp67

£400,000 for 10 new research projects led by disabled people announced

Nearly £400,000 worth of funding has been granted as the first part of the DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) programme, a £5 million research scheme led by disabled people and funded by Big Lottery Fund.

Each research or pilot project will be led by disabled people or people with long term health conditions; they will be developing approaches and questions, working alongside academics and policy makers. Disabled people who often struggle to have their voices heard will be shaping research – including people living with dementia, learning disabilities and mental health issues.
It is both sad and shameful that when night falls and the setts of southern England stir, their gentle folk will be needlessly slaughtered. That in spite of science and public will, the wrath of ignorance will further bloody and bleed our countrysides of its riches of life. That brutalist thugs, liars and frauds will destroy our wildlife and dishonour our nation's reputation as conservationists and animal lovers. I feel sick, sad, disempowered, betrayed, angry and crushed by the corruption of all that I know as right.

-Chris Packham

Right On Chris

IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED
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.
I'M ON BOARD!

I stand with the volunteers on the Greenpeace ship Esperanza to speak for the Arctic.

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

MICHAEL DES BARRES on

LITTLE STEVEN’S UNDERGROUND GARAGE
MAXIMUM ROCK AND ROLL

MORNINGS 8AM – 11AM ET
CH. 21 SIRIUS
SATELLITE RADIO

(FILLING IN FOR ANDREW LOOG OLDHAM)
"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

Trying to pick my favorite politician is like trying to decide which STD is just right for me.
Each week Richard Freeman: world famous cryptozoologist, explorer, author, and one of the most peculiar people I know picks a suitably off story from the world’s press.

A Baby Gorilla In China Probably Hasn’t Been Named ‘Harambe McHarambiface’ (But We’d Love To Be Proved Wrong)

http://tinyurl.com/h8gedv4
Gonzo Web Radio started off as a medium by which interviews and radio programmes about the various acts covered by Gonzo Multimedia could be broadcast to an eagerly attentive world.

But over the past few years, it has become more than that. We now host regular weekly shows by Neil Nixon, a lecturer in professional writing at North West Kent College who uses his weekly radio show, Strange Fruit, as a learning experience for his students on the Foundation Course. I’ve known Neil for years, and he approached me with the idea of syndicating his show.

I agreed, and then the floodgates opened. We have regular weekly shows from Tim and Jaki on their submarine, and from the mysterious M Destiny on the other side of the pond with Friday Night Progressive. We also have a regular visit to the world of the Canterbury Scene courtesy of our friend Matthew Watkins. There are several other shows in the wings, waiting to join us, so stay glued to your seats boys and girls, your life is never going to be the same again!
Bye Daddy! I'm leaving for my date tonight!

Hmph... You be careful, those boys only care about one thing.

Sex?

No...

Prog

ME TRYING TO FIND GIRLS IN A PROG CONCERT
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). The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.

Every other week the show is now presented by Jeremy Smith and as the two promotional pictures that he sent consisted as one of him covered in mud and the other of him covered in guinea pigs he is obviously mad as a bagful of cheese, which means he will fit in here just fine!

He writes: I’ve been a huge music fan ever since my parents bought me a transistor radio and I would listen to the sixties pirate music stations at nights under the covers. This love of live music has stayed with me to this day and I still love standing in a small club like the Borderline in London with some mates and watching a band with a pint in my hand. With the Strange Fruit radio show, I want to continue the trend of doing themed shows and playing the music I love.

**Strange Fruit 190 – Gruesome Twosomes**

When two is better than one. Strange Pairings from the sixties to the present.
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.

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.
Due to technical problems beyond our control there is no Mack Moloney this week.

Keep calm. Normal service will resume shortly.
Sierra Maestra. After Batista's overthrow in 1959, Castro assumed military and political power as Cuba's Prime Minister.

The United States opposed Castro's government, and unsuccessfully attempted to remove him by assassination, economic blockade, and counter-revolution, including the Bay of Pigs Invasion of 1961. Countering these threats, Castro formed an alliance with the Soviet Union. In response to U.S. nuclear missiles in Turkey, and perceived U.S. threats against Cuba, Castro allowed the Soviets to place nuclear weapons on Cuba, sparking the Cuban Missile Crisis—a defining incident of the Cold War—in 1962.

Adopting a Marxist-Leninist ideology, Castro converted Cuba into a pro-Soviet, one-party, socialist state under Communist Party rule, the first and only in the Western Hemisphere. Policies introducing central economic planning and expanding healthcare and education were accompanied by state control of the press and the suppression of internal dissent. Abroad, Castro supported anti-imperialist revolutionary groups, backing the establishment of Marxist governments in Chile, Nicaragua, and Grenada, and sending troops to aid allies in the Yom Kippur War, Ogaden War, and Angolan Civil War. These actions, coupled with Castro's leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1979 to 1983 and Cuba's medical internationalism, increased Cuba's profile on the world stage. Following the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991, Castro led Cuba into its "Special Period" and embraced environmentalist and anti-globalization ideas. In the 2000s he forged alliances in the Latin American "pink tide"—namely with Hugo Chávez's Venezuela—and signed Cuba to the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas. In 2006 he transferred his responsibilities to Vice-President Raúl Castro, who formally assumed the presidency in 2008.

Castro was a controversial and divisive world figure, decorated with various international awards, and his supporters laud him as a champion of socialism and anti-imperialism whose revolutionary regime secured Cuba's independence from American imperialism. Conversely, critics view him as a dictator whose administration oversaw human-rights abuses, the exodus of a large number of Cubans, and the impoverishment of the country's economy.
Through his actions and his writings, he has significantly influenced the politics of various individuals and groups across the world.

According to Cuban state television, Castro died on November 25th.

Colonel Abrams
(1949 – 2016)

Abrams was an American musician, singer, songwriter, dancer and actor. From an early age, he began playing the guitar and piano, and was in several early bands; among them Heavy Impact - in which he played both guitar and keyboards alongside Joe Webb (guitar), Lemar Washington (guitar), Marston "Buffy" Freeman (bass guitar), Ronald Simmons (drums), Harry Jones (trumpet), and Barbara Mills (saxophone). In 1976, he formed Conservative Manor, 94 East (the band featuring Prince on lead guitar).

He became popular on the New York underground

THOSE WE HAVE LOST

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scene via radio and club play, and had his first major hit in 1984 with "Music Is the Answer", on the independent label Streetwise. In 1985, he signed to Steven Machat's label and production company, AMI. Machat, who was collaborating and working with a British producer, Richard James Burgess, hired Burgess to produce Abrams' self-titled debut album. Machat then arranged for MCA Records to sign Abrams for worldwide releases. Burgess produced the songs "Trapped", "I'm Not Gonna Let You", and "Table for Two". On January 9, 2007, Abrams released the single "Just When You Thought", the third single on his own record label, Colonel Records, after "Heartbreaker" and "Let Us All Be Friends". Also in 2007, Abrams released "Never Be", "Just Like Mathematics", and "True Stories". In June 2008, his single, "Only a Few", was issued.

A crowdfunding campaign was launched in 2015, via GoFundMe, in order to help Abrams, as he was homeless, suffering from diabetes, and in poor health. Marshall Jefferson, who had begun a his own effort to crowdfund an album, encouraged others to donate to Abrams instead, stating: “As most of you may or may not know, a lot of recording artists don’t have medical coverage or benefits ... Those of us who have listened to his awesome music and know of his plight, have banded together to try to help him through this rough patch.

Abrams died on Thanksgiving Day, November 24th.

Martell was a veteran American music industry senior executive and philanthropist. He was the founder of the T.J. Martell Foundation. His music industry career spanned the 1960s through the 1990s with experience as an A&R director, record label vice president, and record label head, primarily with CBS Records (now Sony Music Entertainment) and its subsidiaries. Martell worked with musicians who covered a wide range of musical styles including jazz, rock, soul, pop, blues, and heavy metal.

Martell helped direct the careers of The Isley Brothers, and The O'Jays during the 1960s and 1970s, and in the 1980s, Martell was instrumental in bringing both Stevie Ray Vaughan and Ozzy Osbourne to Epic Records. He is credited as Executive Producer on over 50 albums for artists as diverse as Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Isley Brothers, The O'Jays, George Benson, Gerry Mulligan, Jim Hall, Lalo Schifrin, Bill Withers, Patti Austin, George Duke, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, Eumir Deodato, and Stanley Turrentine.

Martell continued his work with Ozzy Osbourne and also signed The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Electric Light Orchestra, Joan Jett, and Henry Lee Summer amongst others.

Martell died on November 27th, aged 90.

Carlton Kitto (c. 1942 – 2016)

Kitto was a Bebop jazz guitarist from India. He was born in Bangalore, where he started working in the railways before starting on his music career in Chennai in the 1960s. He moved to Kolkata in 1973 and became a part of the band Jazz Ensemble in the restaurant, Moulin Rouge there. After two years he...
After disbanding the Invaders, Columbus relocated to the United States for two years. Returning to New Zealand, he hosted numerous television pop shows, and was also a noted music manager, mentoring artists such as singer Suzanne Lynch, and in the late 1990s he managed the rock band Zed.

As a solo artist, Columbus toured with The Rolling Stones, Roy Orbison and The Newbeats, as well as playing Royal Variety Performances and being an opening act of the 1974 New Zealand Commonwealth Games.

Columbus died on 29th November 2016 aged 74, after a "four year battle with ill health".

Raymond John Patrick "Ray" Columbus OBE
(1942 – 2016)

Columbus was a New Zealand singer and songwriter, television host, music manager and entertainer, with a career spanning six decades. As the lead singer of Ray Columbus & the Invaders, his best-known hit was "She's A Mod", during the surf music craze.

He formed his first band, The Dominoes, in 1959. Columbus got his big break playing with the Downbeats Band which later became Ray and the Drifters. He relocated to Auckland when he was offered a TV show titled Club Columbus, whereupon he changed the band's name to Ray Columbus & the Invaders in 1964. The Invaders were known for their Fender guitars, dance moves and lavish clean-cut outfits. In 1964, the Invaders released their best-known song, "She's a Mod". The track was written by British musician Terry Beal for his group The Senators, but was not a hit for his group.

He died on 28th November, aged 74, after a long illness.

Rust was best known as the keyboardist and vocalist for Iron Butterfly from 1999-2005, and sang lead live on "In A Gadda Da Vida". He also had a successful solo career for many years.

Those We Have Lost
Rust became involved in music at the age of 8; he started with classical training on keyboards for 7 years, and was playing in bands at the age of 14. He was involved with Midi and Midi Computer sequencing and recording, developing his engineering and producer skills with tastes of the old style and the new style of producing records. He was currently working on several music projects.

He was also heavily involved in writing soundtrack music for feature and industrial films. He had experience in recording R&B, Hip Hop, Jazz, Contemporary Gospel, Rock, Pop, Rap & Country, and owned a recording studio, in his home for private production projects of Owen Avenue Productions. He also composed for Film Lease Libraries including The Firstcom/Hollywood Film Library/ BMG. He had also undertaken scoring for film & TV Including shows for History Channel.

Rust died on 25th November, aged 63, after a series of strokes.

There is a GoFundMe campaign set up to help pay for Larry's final funeral services, expenses, estate in the link provided below. Money collected beyond these costs will be donated to a charity that helps abused women. This was Larry’s favourite cause.

https://www.gofundme.com/larry-rust-fund

Andreas Siegfried "Andrew" Sachs (1930 – 2016)

Sachs was a Berlin-born British actor who left Germany with his parents for Britain in 1938, when he was eight years old, to escape the Nazis. He made his name on British television and was best known for his portrayals of comical Spanish waiter Manuel in Fawlty Towers, and Ramsay Clegg in Coronation Street.

His screen debut came in 1959 in the film The Night We Dropped a Clanger, and he then appeared in numerous TV series throughout the 1960s.

Sachs is best known for his role as Manuel, the Spanish waiter in the sitcom Fawlty Towers (1975 and 1979), and is now frequently heard as a narrator of television and radio documentaries, as well as audio books, including C. S. Lewis's Narnia series and Alexander McCall Smith's first online book, Corduroy Mansions.


On 17 November 2008, it was announced that Sachs had been approached to appear in Coronation Street. He later confirmed on 14 December that he was taking up the offer, saying, "I'm taking Street challenge". In May 2009 he made his debut on the street, and appeared in 27 episodes, before leaving in August 2009.

Sachs was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2012, which left him wheelchair-bound and unable to speak. He died on 23rd November.

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Spirits Burning and Clearlight

Artist Spirits Burning and Clearlight
Title The Roadmap In Your Head
Cat No. HST423CD
Label Gonzo

Spirits Burning, the brain child of multi instrumentalist producer Don Falcone team up with the legendary Clearlight (aka equally legendary Prog artist Cyrille Verdeaux) for a second album of delightful grooves together. Don Falcone (born November 5th, 1958) is an American musician and producer. Originally a poet-performer in Pennsylvania, he relocated to San Francisco at the beginning of the 1980s. He was a member of Thessalonians and the original Melting Euphoria, had a solo project called Spaceship Eyes, and since 1996 has led the Spirits Burning space rock collective. Various cable and TV network programs have also used Falcone's music. Cyrille, however, has been producing fantastic music since 1975, sometimes with various members of Gong. Put these two musical Giants together and the grooviest of sparks are going to fly! What's not to like?

Artists Vangelis
Title The Tony Palmer Interviews
Cat No. TPDVD192
Label Tony Palmer

Evangelos Odysseas Papathanassiou born 29 March 1943, known professionally as Vangelis is a Greek composer of electronic, progressive, ambient, jazz, and orchestral music. He is best known for his Academy Award-winning score for the film Chariots of Fire, composing scores for the films Blade Runner, Missing, Antarctica, 1492: Conquest of Paradise, and Alexander, and the use of his music in the PBS documentary
Cosmos: A Personal Voyage by Carl Sagan. Here he discusses his stellar career with legendary journalist Tony Palmer - never seen before!

Running Time: 280 minutes

Artist Atomic Rooster
Title Live in London 1972
Cat No. HST426CD
Label Gonzo

Atomic Rooster are an English rock band, originally formed by members of The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, organist Vincent Crane and drummer Carl Palmer. Throughout their history, keyboardist Vincent Crane was the only constant member, and wrote the majority of their material. Their history is defined by two periods: the early-mid-1970s and the early 1980s. The band went through radical style changes, however they are best known for the hard, progressive rock sound of their hit singles, "Tomorrow Night" (UK No. 11) and "The Devil's Answer" (UK No. 4), both in 1971. This record presents them live at their blistering best.

Artist Al Atkins
Title Back To Berlin
Cat No. HST427CD
Label Gonzo

Al Atkins is best known for being the original singer with Midlands heavy rockers Judas Priest with a wife and young daughter to support and no record deal in sight, Atkins was forced "to get a haircut and a 9-to-5 job" in May 1973. He was replaced by Rob Halford, who found himself singing many songs that were originally written by Atkins. Consequently, the album Rocka Rolla gives a portrait of Atkins' original vision for the band. Atkins eventually formed another band, Lion and went solo after it dissolved, releasing four albums in the 1990s and a final, fifth album in 2007 as a solo artist.

Despite being at the age that most men are thinking of retirement, Al is still one of the hardest rocking frontmen on the planet, as this album bears testament.
Artist Rick Wakeman
Title Live at the Winterland Theatre 1975
Cat No. MFGZ015CD
Label RRAW

Majestic Wakeman captured on this timeless radio broadcast. Features a great show with tracks from Six Wives, Journey and Myths. Sound quality is superb as The English Rock Ensemble and Rick are in fine form.

Artist Martin Stephenson and The Daintees
Title Boat to Bolivia 30th Anniversary Edition
Cat No. BARBGZ104CD
Label Barbaraville

Here we have a brand new 30th anniversary recording of Boat to Bolivia, made at The Tolbooth, Stirling 2016.

The idea was to celebrate the albums 30th with a
fresh live sound, the band has never been hotter and truly creates a great take on this classic record, where the songs are just as timeless as the day of it’s release, bearing in mind, most of the songs would have been written between 1980 & 1982! The Daintees showed an incredible range and idiosyncrasy for such young recording artists, and some of the guitar solos John Steel created back then are still etched in the ears of the listener since this truly weird album’s release!

It’s wonderful hearing his 2nd takes with a 30 year distance, just outrageously good man! Here the artist gives you a 30 year gap between original and new, with the original guitarist on both albums Mr John Steel, who left the band after its recording, never to surface till some 15 years later, Martin wrote the song ‘Goodbye John’ for him, which featured on following classic album ‘Gladsome, Humour and Blue’ for his missing friend.

It was Anthony’s brother Gary who joined the band in early 1986 to tour the album and then play on the next three of The Daintees major and awesome releases.

Also on this new version we have John Steel’s wife Kate Stephenson on drums, who has been with the band for over ten years now, worked closely with Sam Brown, Herbie Flowers and Midge Ure before teaming up with Martin and the gang, another weird thing is, Martin’s childhood friend and Bassist Christopher Mordey, who only played Bass on Daintees very first single release Roll on Summertime, who also played on Martin’s first 1978 demo of ‘Neon Skies’ recorded at Newcastle’s Spectro Art’s Centre, so Chris is a hardcore Daintee and is arguably, along with Anthony Dunn, the first Bass player of The Daintees, so has a very authentic and valid connection.

Tour Dates

October 8, 2016: ULLAPOOL, The Argyll Hotel
October 21, 2016: OTLEY, Korks
October 22, 2016: RETFORD, St. Saviour's Community Centre
October 24, 2016: NOTTINGHAM, Theatre Royal
November 02, 2016: CAMBRIDGE, The Junction - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 12, 2016: STIRLING, The Tollbooth - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 14, 2016: INVERNESS, Eden Court Theatre - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 16, 2016: LOSSIEMOUTH
November 17, 2016, DUNDEE, Clarks on Lyndsay Street
November 18, 2016: MANCHESTER, The Lowry - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 19, 2016: NEWPORT, The Riverfront - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 22, 2016: GLASGOW, King Tuts - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 23, 2016: LEEDS, Brudenell - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 24, 2016: LIVERPOOL, The Cavern - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 25, 2016: BIRMINGHAM, O2 Institute - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 26, 2016: CLITHEROE, The Grand - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
November 30, 2016: SHEFFIELD, Academy - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
December 2, 2016: GATESHEAD, The Sage - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
December 3, 2016: LONDON, 100 Club - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
December 4, 2016: SKEGNESS, The Great British Folk Festival - Martin Stephenson & The Daintees

In 1970, Barbara Dickson and Archie Fisher were invited by Decca Records to record a new album of traditional music. The resulting set, ‘Tho’ The Recent Years – The Folk Experiences of Archie Fisher and Barbara Dickson,’ has since gone on to become an acclaimed collector’s item for fans of traditional music but despite its popularity this release marks its first ever release on CD outside of Japan.

Digitally remastered from the original master recordings, ‘Tho’ The Recent Years’ features fourteen superb tracks including Bob Dylan’s ‘Tears of Rage’ as well as a selection of new songs by Archie and Scottish folk stalwart Rab Noakes (who also provides guitar and backing vocals on the album.) ‘Tho’ The Recent Years’ is produced by the legendary Ray Horricks whose long career as a producer included albums with Rod Stewart, Sammy Davis, Jr and Anthony Newley. The CD booklet features a new interview with Barbara in which she looks back over her career in Folk music from her earliest days performing at the Howff in...
Dunfermline, through to her early recordings and influences and the eventual big break which took her on to become one of the most successful and well-loved singers of her generation.

**ORFEO**

**Archie Fisher**

**Artist** Archie Fisher & Barbara Dickson  
**Title** Orfeo  
**Cat No.** CTVPCD015  
**Label** Chariot

Following on from his 1970 album, ‘Thro’ The Recent Years’, recorded with Barbara Dickson, Decca Records invited Archie Fisher to record a follow-up solo set. ‘Orfeo’ features a mix of traditional songs and self-penned tracks which was ultimately released as Decca SKL 5057 later that year. Barbara was once again on board, this time providing backing vocals with Rab Noakes, another friend of theirs from the Fife folk scene, playing guitar with Daryl Runswick featuring on bass and Bill Kemp on drums.

The album was produced by Ray Horricks who had been working with Decca Records and a handful of smaller labels throughout the 60’s on a wide range of genres including folk albums by artists including Shirley Collins, Moira Anderson and Davey Graham, musical soundtracks and early singles by Rod Stewart, as well as several releases by Kenneth McKellar. Of the eleven tracks on ‘Orfeo’, four are traditional with the others being new songs written by Archie. Looking back on the album, Archie comments that the songs were intended to be “very stylised and very chord-orientated and very much built around guitar tunes which were breaking away from the traditional songs and more towards jazz guitar and torch music.”

Barbara Dickson also feels that with ‘Orfeo’ Archie was keen to break new ground. “He was definitely moving forward musically which was the most important thing I think.” ‘Orfeo’ has been digitally remastered from the original studio master tapes and features detailed CD liner notes on Archie’s long career as a traditional music pioneer.

**Barbara Dickson**

**Live in Concert 1976 & 77**

**Artist** Barbara Dickson  
**Title** Live in Concert 1976/77  
**Cat No.** CTVPCD014  
**Label** Chariot

Released for the first time ever on any format, this exclusive DVD features two rare television concerts recorded by Barbara Dickson in 1976 and 1977. All fifteen live tracks from both studio sessions are also included as a bonus CD. Not seen since the original broadcasts and remastered from the original studio master tapes, ‘Barbara Dickson in Concert’ sees Barbara and her band performing material from her first two best-selling pop albums, ‘Answer Me’ and ‘Another Suitcase in Another Hall.’ In addition to ‘Answer Me, a top ten hit for Barbara in late 1976, the release includes ‘Another Suitcase in Another Hall,’ Barbara’s second chart hit taken from the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical, ‘Evita’.

Also included are the singles ‘Lover’s Serenade’ and Gerry Rafferty’s ‘City to City’, as well as Steve Goodman’s ‘City of New Orleans,’ a popular track from Barbara’s live repertoire which has never previously been released on any of her studio or live albums. The DVD booklet features a new interview with Barbara in which she looks back over her pop career and the many television appearances she has made over the years. Commenting on the concerts included on this release, Barbara says, “I haven’t seen these since they were first broadcast but I have to say I’m impressed. They’ve been beautifully remastered and are a nice snapshot of what I was doing during that stage of my career. For those who enjoy my pop stuff, I don’t think you’ll be disappointed!”
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
“Naked Radio”

The Pink Fairies To Release First New Album in 3 Decades!

The Pink Fairies official website: www.pinkfairies.net

“Naked Radio” will be available to pre-order only on PledgeMusic together with other exclusive merchandise and experiences, go to this link http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/pink-fairies to find out more.
Watch a video about the campaign

http://tinyurl.com/jflkhfg

Cop a sneak preview here:

http://tinyurl.com/z9825mr
Brand X and Phil Collins
Fused

Brand X is a band that originated in the mid 1970’s out of London. While best categorized as jazz-fusion, Brand X incorporated rock and progressive genres into their work. Their official debut album *Unorthodox Behaviour* was released in 1976, but the musicians who made up the band were quite busy before that record was released. The founding members on that brilliant album included Robin Lumley (keys), John Goodsall (guitars), Percy Jones (bass), and Phil Collins (drums). Jack Lancaster (winds) also plays on a couple of tracks for that first album and was an important part of their launch. Morris Pert (percussion) joined on their second album and from that point on there were quite a number of personnel changes until they disbanded.

Many of us learned of Brand X because of Phil Collins’ involvement. In the same year as their debut, Phil had taken over vocals for Genesis after Peter Gabriel departed, and the band released *Trick of the Tail*, which also sports some of his most aggressive and creative drumming with that band. For Brand X, Phil took his playing to a new level - arguably at the top of his powers, with bassist Percy Jones as a backing duo foundation for blistering rock-infused jazz-fusion that’s in a class of it’s own. Most progressive rock fans were drawn in and developed an appreciation for the jazz-fusion form, if they had not previously.

If you’ve never heard the band, take a listen to “Smacks of Euphoric Hysteria” from the debut: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhuw62OruO0

Everything great about the band is on display just within the first few bars – killer drum fills along with Phil’s trademark skipping snare, fluid fretless leads from Jones, spacey Rhodes and synth courtesy of Lumley to compliment Goodsall’s searing guitar leads. In total, some of the best fusion on record. Amazingly while they should have filled theaters at a minimum, I never saw them play anywhere larger than the Roxy Theater, the very small club in Los Angeles.

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Brand X
Wed., Nov. 30, 1977
9:00 P.M.
$5.00

This ticket is not assignable and is not transferable. The proceeds from any resale are assigned to the Roxy Theatre Corp.
Just prior to the launch of this seminal band, this gang was busy jamming together whenever possible in the kitchens, pubs and studios of London. Jack Lancaster played winds. He and Robin Lumley wrote and released two albums - *Peter and the Wolf* and *Marscape*, which included playing by all of the members of what became Brand X, along with other guests. These are also classics of the genre. Both of these albums were re-mastered by Jack Lancaster recently and there are with several rare live albums by Brand X that are now available at Gonzo.

**Phil Collins, Very Much Alive**

First off, a note: I’ve always loved Phil Collins, from his work behind the drum kit with Genesis, to 1976 when he became their full time lead vocalist, to his involvement with jazz fusion juggernaut Brand X, his big band, and his long and chart-topping solo career that’s included his own albums, numerous guest and producing credits, and even work in the movie biz. This also means I’ve embraced all the facets of his personality over the years, from the unassuming musician, to his Pythonesque cocky front man, to the rather elusive guy we’ve not heard much about since his official “retirement” in 2007. So it was with great anticipation that I read the new autobiography by the man himself, titled *Phil Collins Not Dead Yet*.

The book is brimming with stories from Phil’s long career, including a number that many long time fans will already know, such as his audition with Genesis, Peter Gabriel’s departure, the fruitless search for a new vocalist and discovery of his own potential. We read about Steve Hackett’s exit from the band and how the three remaining musicians soldiered on to worldwide stardom. As with bios from Michael Rutherford and Tony Banks before him, very little time is spent on the early days of the band with Peter Gabriel up front. Certainly early fan favorites, *Selling England By The Pound* (1973) and
the follow-up *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway* (1974) get short shift. Yet, that’s so long ago now that it’s easy to see why more attention is given to the development of his own first solo album, *Face Value*, the seven solo studio albums that followed, and to his life’s story, at least 18 years of which fall before his time with Genesis and 25 years of which fall after his last studio album with the band. We do get some choice stories about his solo career, his associations as a producer, and his work in particular on the film *Tarzan*, of which he is justifiably proud. Another passage describes the time when Phil played both sides of the Atlantic for the Live Aid concert of 1985, flying from the UK to New York on the Concorde then on helicopter to Philadelphia to make it all happen, including his involvement with the disastrous Led Zeppelin “reunion.” It’s also interesting to read about the years when Phil was very much overbooked, and even overexposed, particularly in the 1980s as he now readily admits.

Most importantly, this is Phil’s personal story and he is refreshingly unabashed at sharing the good and the bad of his three marriages, his relationship with his kids, partners, and fellow musicians. It’s nice to have him set the record straight about “faxgate” where the British tabloids accused him (incorrectly) of divorcing his second wife via the infernal fax machine. By the last third of the book we are deep into his medical record, which includes treatment for hearing loss, spinal cord and elbow injuries, and his harrowing bout with alcoholism, during which he eventually courted death. As this would have been a tragic way to end Phil’s story it’s heartwarming to read how he’s emerged from the edge with the help of friends, family and Doctors, and is working his way back into some new work, including a bit of live performance.

Phil’s life has its share of ups and downs, and it seems here that with this new book the facts are all laid out for all to read. It’s nice to have Phil in his own “voice” telling these stories, and in his disarming way clear up a misunderstanding or two, while taking full responsibility for his part during challenging events. Like the very confessional albums he made that featured close up photos of this enduring artist, this tome is likewise direct from the heart, eminently readable, with thoughtfully chosen photos to boot. Highly recommended.
Forthcoming releases from Rick Wakeman & Friends

Rick Wakeman & Brian May
live from
STARMUS 2015

Starmus is festival of music and astronomy on the beautiful island of Tenerife. It is the brain child Garik Israelian (The astrophysicist who led the team which found the first observational evidence that supernova explosions are responsible for the formation of stellar mass black holes). Rick Wakeman has made several appearances at this festival. The most notable was in 2015 where he was joined on stage by Dr Brian May, the iconic guitarist from Queen, where Rick Wakeman and English Rock Ensemble performed amongst other tracks from throughout Rick’s career a legendary version of Starship Trouper.

This DVD is a must for all fans of Classic Rock!

Available to pre-order from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
IN THE TIMES OF BEATLEMANIA

Alan Dearling wants to hold your hand and take you back to 1964!

alan dearling
As some ‘Gonzo’ regulars will know, I’m only just back from a couple of weeks of walking, hiking, swimming and music-watching/listening in Madeira. And whilst there I had a good rummage around the stalls at the Saturday ‘flea market’ in the capital city of Funchal. It’s held underneath the cable car station, a few stones throws away from the visiting cruise liners. The market is a lively, colourful affair. Lots of real old tat on sale. Anything from rusty screw-drivers and pen-knives to tourist knick-knacks. And on one stall there was a little paperback book with a picture of the Beatles on the front cover. We’re talking about the 1964 ‘mop top’ Beatles. The life and times of the ‘Fab Four’, as they were known back then.

In fact, 1964 was the only time I saw them live at the Hippodrome in Brighton, on July 12th, headlining one of the Liverpool ‘package’ shows. Hundreds of screaming girls. You could only just recognise the songs. Absolute mayhem. The night I saw them was also a bit of history, since Richard Starkey (Ringo) was indisposed, so Jimmy Nicol from that (famous!) support group, ‘The Shubdubs’, filled in with the sticks for the night. It was the first of just five seaside resort gigs they played in 1964 – as compared with 63 in 1963. But, 1964 was the year when Beatlemania travelled over to North America (actually for the second time). They played 25 gigs in the US of A and three in Canada.

And this leads us onto the little book I bought for just 3 Euros from the Funchal market stall. It was the Portuguese version of Bill Adler’s curated, ‘Love Letters to the Beatles’, published in 1964 in America by the Scott Meredith Literacy Agency, 580 Fifth Avenue, New York. It’s a lovely curiosity. All the letters are replicated, in the original versions, plus Portuguese translations. All but one are from love-lorn North American girls (and one boy) with some of the missives accompanied by illustrations by Osborn. I’d never seen this North
Dear Beatles,

This is my 43rd letter to you. Please answer quick, I am desperately running out of stamps.

Laura A.
Braun, Mass.

Caros Beatles,

Estou já a minha carta para vocês. Por favor, respondam depressa. Para mim, a semana me salva caras.

Laura A.
Braun, Mass.

American compilation before. Perhaps it’s new to you too.
Enjoy! It certainly takes one back to a more innocent time…

Dear darling, sweet, sensational sexy boy
I am wild for you. Someday
I am going to meet you and
never, never, ever let go. The way
you shake your head during a
show—oh, that really gets me!

All my love,
Amy B.
Philadelphia

Muito querido, dezo, exsaginal ‘sexy’ George.

Estou completamente louca por ti. Qualquer
Dia vou te contigo e nunca, nunca, nunca mais te largar.
A maneira como sacodes a cabeça durante um ‘show’—Oh!
realmente empolga-me!

Com todo o meu amor,
Amy B.
Filadélfia

alan dearling
DEAR BEATLES,

I AM A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD BOY AND I CAN'T SEEM TO GET ANY GIRL FRIENDS.

COULD YOU MAIL ME THE NAMES OF ANY GIRLS YOU DON'T NEED?

VERY TRULY YOURS,

Walter 71
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Caros Beatles,

Sou um rapaz de dezasseis anos e parece que não consigo arranjar uma namorada.

Podiam vocês enviar-me pelo correio o nome de algumas raparigas de que não precisem?

Com elevada consideração
Walter H.
Fort Worth, Texas
Twinkle, twinkle Ringo Starr
How I wonder how you are
I wonder if you are still there
Under that big mop of hair

Long live Beatlemania
Andrea C.
Birmingham, Alabama

Cintila, cintila 'Ringo Starr'
Bem me pergunto como vais tu
Bem me pergunto se estás ainda ai
Sob essa grande gaforina

Viva a Beatlemania
Andrea C.
Birmingham, Alabama

Eric Rogers,
I am not any ordinary Beatle-fan,
girl because I am not,
I may not be wild and nutty
but why, inside, do I swing!

Jone,
Long W.
Toronto, Canada

Querido Ringo,
Não sou uma dessas raparigas vulgares loucas
pelos Beatles porque não sou mesma.
Não vago pela dessas grandes malacórias
mas, sim, por dentro toda me ubrio!

Com amor
Long W.
Toronto, Canada
Dear Paul,

I think it is wonderful that you & John can write such songs and not even be able to read a note.

I can’t explain why but I have a strange feeling that if you ever learned the mechanics of music and harmony it would ruin you.

With love,
Isabelle
Tacoma, Washington

Querido Paul,

Pensive que é maravilhoso que tu & John saibam escrever canções tão belas sem saber capazes sequer de ler uma nota.

Não sei explicar porquê, mas tenho a estranha sensação de que se vocês aprendessem a mecânica da música e da harmonia cairiam em ruína.

Com o meu amor
Isabelle A.
Tacoma, Washington

Dear George,

In my room I have a six foot George poster.

It really flips my boyfriend.
He gets wild.
He is only 5ft 4 in the flesh.

I love ya,
Patty D.
Long Island City

Querido George,

No meu quarto tenho um cartaz George com 1,80m.
Ele faz o meu juízo ao meu namorado, é verdade. Anda furioso. Tem apenas 1,60 de altura, sem roupas e o seu.

Amo-te,
Patty D.
Long Island City

Dear Oneo,

Yesterday to show my loyalty I bought a Beatle wig, 3 Beatle albums, a Beatle sweatshirt, and 4 Beatle dolls.

I spent $21.79.

I adore you. Take my heart. It is all I have left.

Fondly,
Karen A.
Springfield, Mass.

Meus queridos,

Ontem, para mostrar a minha lealdade, comprei uma cabeleira Beatle, 3 álbuns Beatle, uma blusa Beatle e 4 bonecas Beatle. Gastei 21 dolares e sete cêntimos.

Adoro-vos, tou-vos o meu coração. É tudo o que me resta.

Afectuosamente
Karen A.
Springfield, Mass.

alan dearing
Dear John,

I am 4 feet 8. I weigh 92 lbs. I am all yours.

Forever,

Bea L.
Los Angeles

Querido John,

Tengo 1.45m de altura. Peso 42 kg.
Soy tuya.

Para siempre,

Bea L.
Los Angeles

Dear Beatles —

I saw you when you landed at Kennedy Airport in New York. I was almost killed and I was just six feet away from you. Everybody went crazy. I had an ankle sprained, my dress tore, a slightly scratched face, and a black eye.

Isn’t it WONDERFUL?

I adore you all,

Cookie E.

Queens, N.Y.

Queridos Beatles —

Vi-os quando desembarcaram no Aeroporto Kennedy, em Nova York. Quase me machucaram e estava afastada apenas dois metros de vocês. Tudo a gente ficou louco. Tocci em torpor, rasgaram-me o vestido, arrancaram-me ligeiramente a cara, e tive um olho negro.

Não é MARAVILHOSO?

Adeus-vos a todos

Cookie E.

Queens, N.Y.

alan dearling
My love,

I will absolutely suffer and remain in dauntless agony and total despair until the day I may touch you once. I am a prisoner of love.

Anonymous

My love,

Serei, absolutamente e continuarei em terrível angústia e total desespero até o dia em que vos posso tocar.

Anonymous
Before the Dawn – Kate Bush

Live?

Last week, over two years after the events, Ms Bush finally released the audio from her 2014 shows in London, in CD and LP form, but not the much hoped for DVD, which many of her army of devotees had been praying for. Not my usual cup of Rosy Lee you might think but I was there you see, on September 2nd, hence my interest. Whilst not a KB ‘fan’, like most people I found her music and persona interesting and unique when she appeared back in the 1970s, and being male, her rather gorgeous and sexy to boot. I knew the hit singles off the radio but I didn’t own any of her albums, I hadn’t really listened to her properly I guess. (OK, maybe I bought a bootleg of her 1979 tour…… just for the cover…..)

So, the Hammy Odeon on a sunny autumn’s day, the evening was a treat for my other half, and even though I had got through on the website on the morning, there were only VIP packages or some such bollocks left. At least for your over £400 a pop (I must have been stoned that day) you got a ‘gourmet supper’ in the church outside before the gig. That was actually surprisingly great food, a sort of upmarket picnic with drinks, sitting on trestle tables. So far, so good. Outside for a bit of mind expansion on the green, and then across the road into the venue itself. We got a ‘free’
My other half loved it, so ultimately job done. The album however, was possibly my chance to work out if it was me on the night, I had lost my mother only a few months before, but I’m sure I went out in the right frame of mind that evening, I wanted to like it. I also listened to the recent BBC Radio 6 interview with Kate, which the shows and this release are the main point of discussion. I’ve also dipped into some of her fan websites, who all seem to hold her with a rather touching reverence, and wouldn’t dare question her wishes and actions. The few people who have dared posting less than orgasmic album reviews on Amazon have been severely rounded on by the fish followers or whoever they are.

This “Live” album poses a number of interesting questions, not least, how live is it? Ms Bush says she has been working on it for the last two years, humm. The booklet inside the Triple CD version says no overdubs or re-recording. You can still do an awful lot just by ‘re-mixing’ though, especially given today’s digital trickery. Mention is made of ‘removing the audience’ and bringing them back in certain places. Why? It was a live event? Even some of the faithful comment that it seems a somewhat perfect performance. Some of the tracks seem to vary quite widely in their sound feel, with at least one showing no signs of being recorded on a stage frankly, with the inner harmonics of the instruments and voice being revealed in far too much detail surely. Some of the vocals seem a bit
THE K FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS
BEFORE THE DAWN
higher pitched than they were on the night too. But what is live anyway? In the audience, you are actually listening through the Public Address or Front of House system. The SQ that reaches your ears depends on the where you are sitting, and how good a job the guys at the sound desks are doing. We sat close to, but to the left of, the stage. This meant facing the bass bins with the flying array speakers way above us. No surprise we endured a bass heavy sound, with Kate’s voice way back in the general melee most of the time in the louder pieces, and only really clear on the odd occasion when the musical accompaniment was light. In fact I also remember the bassist, John Giblin, was using a battery of instruments, constantly changing them but I couldn’t detect any difference in tone or sound between them (the album seems to echo this). The penultimate song I do recall was just Kate and a piano, at last, her voice in full, and it was wonderful. But, I also realised she didn’t seem to have much sense of personal rhythm. KB fronting a jazz trio in Ronnie Scots though, that might be something special….

During the radio interview she says the audiences made the shows. Later on, she says they were using in-ear monitoring on stage, and so she was completely removed from the audience, until the very end when she took them out again. She talks of the terror of doing the shows, perhaps playing live more often than every 35 years might help? Although being on edge is not a bad thing, far better than over confidence. The one location multi-night shows enabled her to make the venue her own, she doesn’t like travelling and they had a complex surround-sound system too (so why didn’t they turn it up?!). All in all she likes complete control does our Kate. Perhaps that’s part of my problem, I don’t like being told how to listen and watch thanks. It’s almost as if she tried to cover most of the senses, but in doing so doesn’t allow the audience to use it’s own imagination.

The same set was played every night, in the same order, and so the album reflects that. It certainly isn’t a particular night, which arguably it should have been. Warts ’n all, live in other words! Pulling in the best tracks from a tour or series of gigs is standard practice however, I just suspect much fiddling in-between too here. The more ‘up tempo’ songs that start the show and Cloudbursting as the final encore, are all good. The two long set pieces are meandering with the included (specially written and pretty embarrassing) ‘playlets’ thrown in. The opener, Lily does sound not dissimilar to the sound from the PA, rather bass heavy with quite a lot of top. Some of the faithful have been complaining of the SQ online, but I suspect whatever they listen with can’t do anything resembling real bass, of which there is plenty if your system can resolve it. It hasn’t unfortunately changed anything much for me, apart from the great singles, the rest is either verging on pomp prog or film score music, and is just too drawn out for my taste. On the plus side, she has avoided the loudness wars, you really have to turn the wick up to bring it to life. I read that the 4LP set is a good pressing, but £60 or so, the triple CD set can be picked up for under £15 which does make it somewhat of a bargain.

Two of the nights were apparently ‘filmed’, although oddly the lady says during the radio interview they were not ‘professionally’ filmed. No immediate plans to release for the foreseeable future it would appear, perhaps in a different tax year. In some ways, she is right in releasing the audio, it was ultimately based on her music after all. You get the impression that KB lives in her own world, she expressed no interest in writing about ‘the state of the world’ and no, she didn’t listen to new artists/current music. She does like a certain T.May it emerged yesterday according to the Beeb however. When asked what was next she didn’t know, she certainly has not been writing songs recently so it doesn’t sound like any new material is forthcoming, anytime soon.

No material from her first, and most original, four albums were contained in these shows. If you are a fan, you will already own this album and have stopped reading this a while back. If you own some KB albums, including the Hounds of Love and/or Aerial, and like them, you will like this. Me, I’ll have to keep trying again from time to time I guess.

PS: Talking of talented female artists, we popped down to Glastonbury on Saturday and visited the Frost Fayre. We caught Cary Grace’s short set on a horse-drawn stage set up in front of the King Arthur pub, a few stars twinkling overhead. The lack of time and space meant no synths for her and so she just fronted her band and sang instead. A great combination of a few of her own compositions plus some excellent covers, including White Rabbit and Cream’s the White Room. I’d forgotten how good her guitarist Owen is too. Great fun, and free.
THE COMPLETE GOSPELS

The Gospels evolved because Rick Wakeman was asked to perform at an organ recital to raise money for the Camberley United Reform Church, which was in desperate need of a new organ. Rick pondered what to play and the more he thought about it and what the evening should mean, the more he felt that something very special was about to take place.

Thoughts of the New Testament kept creeping into his mind and he decided to write an instrumental piece to the settings of the four Gospels. He began working but after a couple of hours realised that there was no way he was going to get across the feelings he wished to portray without singing. The music seemed to cry out for an operatic tenor.

Amazingly enough, just a few weeks earlier, Rick had met the famous tenor Ramon Remedios at a charity concert in which they both performed and he plucked up courage to ask him if he would kindly agree to perform the New Gospels with him. The concert was a tremendous success and Ramon’s feeling and understanding of the music moved many people to tears.

The complete Gospels is a limited edition box set containing all the known recordings of the project both audio and visual. Along with a reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

Special Limited Edition Boxset containing
Signed by Rick Wakeman and numbered certificate.
DVD containing over 2 hours of footage including an in depth interview with Rick about the project.
Double CD 1, The Original Gospels – with Robert Powell as the Narrator.
Double CD2, The New Gospels
DVD / CD of The Gospels performed live in California – never seen before.
Reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

The Rainbow Suite

This is a brand new orchestral piece written and performed by Rick Wakeman and the Orion Orchestra. This is a specially written piece of therapeutic music designed for people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder to enjoy as well aficionados of good quality instrumental music.
This is Rick and Orchestra at their finest !!!
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.
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@The Village Inn, Westward Ho!
Every Tuesday from 7.30pm

All styles, levels and listeners welcome

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IN THE NEWS:
LATEST INVESTIGATIONS
A PARANORMAL VISIT TO CHESTER
AND MUCH MORE!

Mysterious Encounters in Morecambe

An American in Suffolk

FREE!
As regular readers of these pages will probably know I have a strange, disparate, and diverse collection of friends, relatives, and associates, many of whom are extraordinarily creative in one way or another. And as my plan was always to make this magazine the sort of magazine that I would want to read, many of them turn up in these pages with monotonous regularity. Meet Mr Biffo.

From 1993 for a decade he was the editor of an anarchic video games magazine on Channel Four Teletext. It was called Digitiser and contained some of the most gloriously funny bits of off the wall dicking about that I have ever read. Biffo happens to be a friend of mine and as the re-launched Digitiser2000 is just as stupid and just as funny as ever, we shall be featuring a slice of Biffo every week from now on.

SCRIPTS OF MY YEARS PART THIRTEEN: LAST OF THE MONSTER HUNTERS - BY MR BIFFO

I admit that when I was asked to write the pilot for Dani’s House - pitched to me as a hybrid of sketch show and sitcom - it was just another job, like every other job I’d done. By this point, I’d written so many pilots, developed so many shows which hadn’t gone anywhere, that I started to see un-produced development as the job.

It was hard to get excited about any new project, after so much disappointment. I felt, objectively, that Too Much Too Young, Now The Weather, and Biffovision all had the potential to become great shows. Not flawless, but that was the point of pilots, surely - to iron out the kinks?

Getting so close, and losing them, was hard. Admittedly, I never told myself it was hard, but I can look back now and recognise that every time I got a knock-back, I should’ve let myself grieve for what could’ve been. Instead of facing up to that, instead of embracing the grieving process, I did what I always did; I pushed it down, and told myself I was fine. Same as I did when it came to Digitiser. Same as I did when it came to my marriage; instead of walking away when I ought to have done, I let myself be pushed back into it. The message I received from those around me was that my feelings didn’t matter as much as other people’s, that it didn’t matter how hurt and broken I was... I had to suck it up and carry on.

http://tinyurl.com/zvj6xxt
Steve ‘Boltz’ Bolton, who had been with me decorating Manfred’s flat back in 1982, had been touring a lot with Paul Young. The band’s management had sacked him a few times because his general style and appearance, not to mention the jerky way he moved around the stage whilst playing, took the attention away from Paul. During one of these lay-offs he got a phone call, which, he told me, went like this:

‘Is that Steve Bolton?’

‘Yes, who is this?’

‘It’s Pete Townshend here.’

‘Fuck off. Who is it?’

After a life spent in and around music Roy Weard has finally written it all down. From his beginnings in the folk clubs of the early sixties, to playing the free festivals of the seventies with his own band 'Wooden Lion', to touring as a merchandiser with acts like Santana, The Pink Floyd and Genesis, to fronting cult London bands 'Dogwatch' and 'Roy Weard and Last Post', then touring again as a sound engineer and tour manager for many different bands and solo acts. A wide and varied life - this book spans all of that and more and is freely sprinkled with backstage stories and tales of a life spent on many different roads. It also contains many photographs, mostly taken by Roy, the crews he toured with, or by the fans of his various bands.

Even now he is unable to give up being involved in music. He still fronts the revived band 'That Legendary Wooden Lion', is part of the team that puts on monthly gigs in Brighton and Hove under the name of 'The Real Music Club' and does a weekly one hour radio show on Tuesdays at 4pm on Brighton and Hove Community Radio. As of now, he also writes a regular column in this august publication.
built upon the site of the original Clink Prison which dated from 1144 and was one of the first prisons in England. It was from this prison that the phrase ‘In the Clink’, meaning to go to jail, originated. The studio itself was on several floors and all the studios had been emptied and set up as individual venues. Frankie Howard was there, trawling for young men I believe. I was led to one of the rooms, which was in silence. Our rig sat in the corner and, all around it people were laying on the floor, sleeping. Even the DJ himself was fast asleep on the floor. I checked out the amp rack and found it was not powered up so I followed the cable back to find it was unplugged. When I looked at the mains distribution I saw that there was no space for it to be plugged in which was a bit puzzling. One of the slots was occupied by a lamp so I unplugged that, inserted the amp rack power, switched it all on and put on the record on the turntable. (No CDs or MP3s on laptops then – everything was vinyl). The music kicked into life and all around me the sleepers lurched from their sleeping positions on the floor, up onto their feet and began to dance. Like some rhythmic zombie horde brought back to life by the power of the rave. The DJ too woke up and said: ‘Oh, you fixed it.’

‘Not really,’ I replied. ‘It was only unplugged. Someone unplugged the amps to plug a light in.’

A look of almost cognition crossed his face. ‘Oh, that was me,’ came the mumbled reply. ‘Didn’t you notice that when you unplugged the amp the music stopped then?’ ‘Oh, yeah.’

I gave up and went home. That was why I could not stand these things, they had a collective IQ in single figures.
Chemtrails
Have you noticed anything peculiar about the sky recently? Take a look. Some days it is etched across, back and forth over the whole extent of the sky, with these angry white streaks. It’s very strange. It’s like some gigantic mad child has scribbled across the sky in white crayon.

My guess is that you think you already know what causes this. It’s the exhaust trails from high-flying jets, of course. What is peculiar is the sheer number of them, and the length of time they seem to hover there, spreading out across the sky in a complex geometric diagram of intersecting lines, before dissipating into a thin white sheen of cloud which then covers the entire sky.

Depending upon your point of view you might call these lines “contrails”… or you might call them “chemtrails”.

What you call them is dependent on what you think they are.

Contrails is the official name, and the official explanation is that they are water-vapour trails from the exhaust of jet engines which freezes in the cold thin air of the upper atmosphere, forming a stream of condensation behind the plane. Effectively they are man-made clouds.

If you call them “chemtrails” on the other hand, then you believe that the explanation for their existence is much more sinister. You assert that the content is a vile mix of toxic chemicals - including aluminium and barium, amongst other things - and that their presence in our skies is evidence of a vast conspiracy against the very atmosphere of the Earth itself.

You are a “chemtrail believer”.

The word “chemtrail” is not accepted in the official media.

However, if you put the word into your search engine you will come up with an alarming number of websites devoted to this particular world-view. Over 8,000 at the last count.

Actually I wouldn’t recommend that any of you enter any of these sites, not unless you are very bored and have a lot of time on your hands. You are soon lost in a maze of information and disinformation, argument and counter argument, accusations of fraud, of threats and counter threats, of lies and distortion.

It’s hard to make out what is going on, exactly.

You have chemtrail believers who believe that they are evidence of a conspiracy by government agencies to alter the climate in some way. Others believe that it has something to do with navigation
systems, while yet another group believe that they are part of some sinister programme of depopulation which is seeding the skies with biological agents meant to wipe out large segments of the human race.

A fourth group think that they might be filling the air with Valium and Prozac in order to turn us all into zombies.

Some members of he first two groups think that the last two groups are disinformation agents who enter the chemtrail chat rooms in order to discredit the entire scenario, while a fifth group, the chemtrail debunkers, believe that the whole argument is a fraud from beginning to end.

There is no such thing as a “chemtrail” they say. They are just frozen water droplets left as a natural by-product of jet engine emissions. The fact that there are more of them now than there ever were is simply evidence that there are more planes in the sky.

Contrails
Steve Andrews will need no introduction here. He is a well known conspiracy theorist. He is the guy who introduced me to the word “chemtrail” in the first place. But has recently gone through a conversion. He used to wear a tee shirt saying “Stop Chemtrails”, but he has since changed his mind. It’s not that he wants to start chemtrails now. It’s that he now thinks the whole thing is an illusion.

And having been a person who once hung around chemtrail websites and chemtrail chat rooms discussing the phenomenon with other believers, he has since taken to entering these same websites in order to put forward the opposite point of view.

His erstwhile chemtrail co-conspiracists are alarmed.

Has he been drugged or hypnotised? Are the chemtrail agents holding a gun to his head? What evil conspiracy is afoot? Have the dark magicians of the world-wide Illuminati conspiracy been projecting their evil spells on to him, controlling him by remote mind-control devices in order to undermine the righteous forces of the anti-chemtrail underground? Has Steve, in fact, been “got at”?

Well no.

He just changed his mind, that’s all.
Housing Benefit Hill:
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/
The Masters of the Universe do seem to have a steady stream of interesting stories featuring them, their various friends and relations, and alumni. Each week Graham Inglis keeps us up to date with the latest news from the Hawkverse.

Attracting some recent attention in Hawkwind circles is an albums ranking list on the website ranker.com. The list is actually two years old, but only recently has been brought to the attention of Hawkwind fans on Facebook and on the Hawkwind.com discussion forum.

The chart is intended to rate the studio albums, and so the 1972 double album "Space Ritual Alive" is absent from the list. However, the inclusion of "Weird vol 3" (the free festivals recording) is a glaring anomaly and "The Crystal Entity" is an album that doesn't - so far as I can determine - even exist. Perhaps that explains why it's ranked 39 out of 40, at the time of writing.

Generally, though, the chart has settled down into a fairly unsurprising 'favourites list' with the "Warrior" album currently being ranked first among equals, and "Quark" and "Doremi" breathing right down its neck. (The screenshot shows "Doremi" in top spot, before "Warrior" lived up to its name and put on a bit of a charge.) And equally predictable is the domination of the upper reaches of the chart by the earlier and the so-called golden age Hawkwind.

Indeed, only one post-1980 album currently makes the Top Ten, and that's the 1981 album "Sonic Attack"!
The format of ranker.com is a ruthless one, aiming to rank stuff from best to worst. Some fans are uncomfortable with the idea of 'worst' Hawkwind albums, preferring to regard the ratings as seeking primus inter pares (first among equals). However, in music as elsewhere in the world, some candidates are more equal than others!

Albums from the 21st century are currently in the lower reaches of the chart, perhaps because they just haven't had time to cement themselves into the consciousness of the fans. Albums can be like that, sometimes. "Astounding Sounds" being a good example: in the last few years, it's been given what one might call a reappraisal or a second chance, by many fans, and found to be not so bad after all. It's currently showing at #11, so the rehab has clearly worked.

Tapes from the Weird series are making a good showing. The live interloper "Weird 3" and also "Weird 2" (Hawklords studio and Hawkwind live) comfortably make the Top 20, and "Weird 1" and "Weird 8" are making a good fight of being Top 30 candidates. Then again, half of "Weird 1" and the bulk of "Weird 8" is live material. However, things aren't always clear-cut in Hawkwindland, as the 1974 "Mountain Grill" album includes some live material, and one would hardly disqualify that LP from a studio albums list on such grounds.

And the 'worst' Hawkwind album - or if you prefer, the one that's least equal to "Warrior"? - propping up the chart at #40 is "Future Reconstructions", an album of tecno dance creations with Hawkwind material included in the mixes. So the worst Hawkwind album isn't by Hawkwind. OK, fair enough.

LINK: www.ranker.com/list/best-hawkwind-albums-list/reference
Greetings space travellers!
This is your Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport application form.

Please fill 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)

Volunteer Crew Register

Name........................................................................................................................................

Please give details of your occupation/profession for inclusion in crew register and possible duty roster (optional)
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Full Earth Address: ................................................................................................................
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www.hawkwind.com
Any enquiries hawkwindpassports@hawkwind.com
The Song of PANNE
Being Mainly About Elephants
JONATHAN DOWNES
The first book of Xtul stories comes out in book form next week, and will be available via all good retailers, through Fortean Fiction. But the story is far from over, and having taken a few weeks off to restore my battered savoir faire I am recommencing...

Are you sitting comfortably? Good. I shall begin.

“We are here, Jonathan, to communicate the wishes of our Master”, Danny boomed in a voice straight out of Ben Hur that I had never - in our thirty-four year relationship - heard him use before.

“What the fuck are you talking about?” I spat back. “And don’t come out with all this histrionic bollocks while you are on my property!”

http://www.xtul.co.uk
Out of the corner of my eye I could see a terrified Panne, having gathered up a struggling kitten under each arm, scuttling for the shelter of our overgrown shrubbery, where I knew it had built a secretive little den. Whatever happened, my unwanted and unwelcome visitors must never see Panne. They might suspect that I had rescued the little woodland Godling, and taken it into my protection, but suspicion was not proof.

I would never claim to be a Magician, but I had carried out the strongest rites of protection that I knew how to do (two parts Dorien Valiente and a smidgeon of Crowley’s *Magick in Theory and Practise*) but the fact that my three unwanted visitors had simply breezed into my garden without a by your leave, would suggest that my craftwork was sorely inadequate.

I stared at Danny and his companions bad temperedly. They stared back at me implacably, and I knew that we were destined for some sort of Mexican Standoff of staring. So I stared back at them, and they stared back at me.

Just then there was a flurry of barking, and a little brown and white whirlwind came rushing down the garden path. Someone had - despite all my strictures of what should not be done under any circumstances before the postman has been - left the back door open, and Archie (in full attack mode) was running down the garden path to investigate, with
“Thank Fuck they’ve gone” he said in his usual voice. “Now we can talk”. He sat himself down on the chair in the corner of my office, and — much to my surprise, as he really doesn’t like strangers that much — Archie scampered towards him, leaping onto his lap for a cuddle.

“Let’s get the business out of the way first”, he said, reaching into his pocket and extracting (with no little difficulty) a huge bundle of bank notes, and a computer keydrive. He passed them both to me. “The money is from Malcolm and Emma-Leigh. There is seventeen grand in there, which I believe — what they owe you” he said, as I stared at him mutely. “The keydrive is from our mutual friend Mr Loxodonta. He wants you to make it into a record”.

I still stared at him mutely. There were so many things going through my head that I didn’t know what to say first. I thought for about thirty seconds, still staring at Danny like a goldfish with my mouth opened, and extreme prejudice. Whether this was just him being an aggressive little bugger, or whether he was finally a manifestation of my magickal protections, I don’t know.

Being a terrier, he grabbed hold of the tails of the black robe of the nearest hooded figure and started to “worry” it. This being, by the way, the technical term for a terrier shaking something from side to side in an attempt to break its neck, or otherwise damage it. And it wasn’t long before he had pulled the cloak to the ground revealing what was underneath.

Now, if this had been a Harry Potter story, or Dr Who script, the cloak would have fallen away to reveal a wisp of elemental smoke, or — more likely — a hideous primeval monster that would have just emerged from some drowned corpse city or other. But this is real life, or at least as ‘real’ as mine gets (whatever that means) and when Archie pulled down the black cloak he revealed…… nothing at all. And in all the flurry of excitement, the other hooded figure had vanished, never to be seen again. Danny was without his bodyguards, and when I looked up at his face he was grinning like an idiot.

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heard The Queen Herself jive talking, or using the phraseology of a Jamaican Yardie.

And then he really shocked me. He reached into his breast pocket, got out a packet of Benson and Hedges Gold, and offered me a cigarette. This was something unprecedented; Danny was well known for never having his own cigarettes. Something extraordinary must have happened to him to have brought on this extreme sea change.

I took the cigarette, and thanked him politely (trying to hide my incredulity). We sat there in silence, smoking. And then the office door opened, and my beloved Mother-in-law walked in. “Would you and your friend like a cup of coffee?” she asked, and disappeared, reappearing a few minutes later with a cup of tea sans milk, and a bottle of diet tonic water.

This broke the ice, and Danny began to tell his story.

still couldn’t think of what to say. There were so many issues here. Why had Loxodonta waited ten months to get hold of me? Why had my two erstwhile tenants who had never in their lives, as far as I was aware, done anything decent to anyone suddenly decided to stump up the money that they owed me (actually about eighteen hundred quid more, but I wasn’t going to complain)? And from where had they got the money? Was I going to have the outraged owner of said banknotes turn up on my doorstep with a police escort? And most of all, how come Danny was suddenly behaving like a decent, normal human being for the first time since I had known him? In the 34 years since I met him he had always talked like a slightly retarded mid-Atlantic teenager, using whatever cant phrase or patois was currently in vogue. It had always irritated me, especially as he and I got older, but here he was - for the first time since I first met him back in 1981 - using The Queen’s English in a reasoned and sensible manner, with surprisingly well-modulated tones. It was as much of a shock as if I had heard The Queen Herself jive talking, or using the phraseology of a Jamaican Yardie.

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This broke the ice, and Danny began to tell his story.
Martin Springett was born in Crayford, Kent, England, in 1947. He studied art (that is he learned to play the Guitar) for two semesters at the Brassey School of Art in Hastings, Sussex. He emigrated to the West Coast of Canada in 1965, but returned to the UK in 1973 to pursue music in various bands. He spent time in Germany, and toured through Europe.

While in London Martin started to illustrate and design record covers for Columbia records. Upon his return to Vancouver, Martin carried on with music and illustrated various books and magazines. In 1978 he moved to Toronto, maintaining activity in every area where illustration is required. He released his own album, "The Gardening Club", in 1983.

In 1984 Martin was commissioned to illustrate the cover of "The Summer Tree" by Guy Gavriel Kay. This and the subsequent volumes of The Fionavar Tapestry Trilogy were published around the world along with Martin's covers. Martin continued his work in fantasy illustration, illustrating many covers for fantasy novels, including "The Traveller In Black" by John Brunner. In 1990 he illustrated his first childrens book, "Mei Ming and the Dragon's Daughter" written by Lydia Bailey. Martin has just finished illustrating his sixth children's book, called "The Follower" by Richard Thompson. He has been nominated for various awards, including the Governor Generals Award For Illustration. He has won the Aurora Award For Excellence in Fantasy Art, and two Silver Awards from the Art Directors Club of Toronto and Best Classical Record Cover of The Year Award (UK).

Martin still pursues the Musical Muse, recently producing a new CD, "Blue Evening" with his band "FREEFALL", an independent, instrumental album called "Rough Magic"; a collection of explorations on the guitar, and a collection of tunes inspired by the writings of Guy Gavriel Kay called "Bright Weaving".

www.martinspringett.com/

https://spacewreckrecords.bandcamp.com
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 Daedel 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!!"

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**IN THE DYING DAYS DECEMBER 2016**

Some are tempted to look back-how did all artists deal with tyrants? How can (now) too many silent-speak? Loud voices laugh in empty halls. They crow and sneer and take on airs. Yet we the people are still here And it is up to us to choose to care. Apathy and cynicism both wrong turns It is not right to surrender all one’s Rights. When buzzards crow of road kill, we fly above We are not victims of this time of rage not love. We persist in storms and holocaust. Make no mistake-prophets of the past spoke true. Yet they were tolling out their times- and you have only now today to speak/to say/what it is will make this vexation move away. It is not one man but his mob have moved in. Hate is not a family value. How he got in is cause for forensics/insight/vision. If darkness rules we need to seek the ways of Light And change then.
Manson’s Right-Hand Man Speaks Out

A Riveting 200-Question Interview with X-Manson Family Member

Charles “Tex” Watson

This is a very peculiar book. I don’t suppose that will come as any surprise to anyone reading a book by one of the premium members of the Manson Family peculiar? Of course it is going to be peculiar! But wait until you find out why it is peculiar.

Is it peculiar because it is badly written?
Nope.

Is it peculiar because it is so fucking bland.

Where one would have every reason to expect Political Piggies, Helter Skelter, Zezozose Zadfrack Glutz, and the rest, one gets a collection of bland Christian homilies. He even makes the Tate killings sound boring. Check this out:

“That’s right. At the trial, I confessed to my part in the murders. But over the years, thanks to God, I’ve become more honest with myself no longer denying and minimizing the responsibility for my actions. When sharing my testimony, I feel it is important to share my thoughts concerning those vices I indulged in, without blaming them for my actions. Also, I now look at the crime through the eyes of others, rather than just my own. In my book, Will You Die For Me? I discuss the murders in depth.”

And:

“We told Manson that during the crimes, we had no remorse. That was what he wanted to hear, but it didn’t take long for me to feel remorseful once his influence and the drugs wore off.

There are different depths of remorse. The Bible says, “For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is
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I felt distress and a sense of guilt from the beginning, but my denial was too great for me to experience deep remorse. I was no longer killing my pain with drugs, but instead, I started blaming others, making excuses and mitigating my actions. I learned this well during my trial and while on appeals. We came up with every extenuating circumstance in the book. During my first few years in prison, I wanted to put the crime behind me. When flashes of it came up in my mind, I turned them off because the pain was too intense. But eventually, I saw that my unwillingness to think about my crime prevented me from experiencing the proper feelings for what I had done.

The reason that I dislike this book so much, is not because I am some kind of Manson groupie who wants to hear more and more gruesome details about ‘the love and terror cult’, but because Watson has become an apologist for the sort of wishy washy Christianity that I find most abhorrent. Now, I am sure that someone is going to pick up on that sentence and accuse me of being anti-Christian, but nothing could be further from the truth. I am basically a Christian, although my Christianity is of the Christian Anarchist persuasion as described by Alexandre Christoyannopoulos and others, rather than the bland ‘Jesus wants me for a fucking sunbeam’ mindset which is getting more and more prevalent.

This concept reducing religion to innocuous pablum has been with us for decades. In the early 1960s for example, Robert Heinlein, writing via the character of my great literary hero Jubal Harshaw wrote:

“Still, you must know that representations of the Crucifixion are usually atrocious—and ones in churches are the worst...blood like catsup and that ex-carpenter portrayed as if He were a pansy...which

He certainly was not. He was a hearty man, muscular and healthy. But a poor portrayal is as effective as a good one for most people. They don’t see defects; they see a symbol which inspires their deepest emotions; it recalls to them the Agony and Sacrifice of God,"

I suppose that it is probably unfair of me to criticise the man because of his use of the English language. It is, after all, very low down on the list of the crimes he has committed. But - although this book may be quite effective in soothing Watson’s conscience, and might work as supporting evidence in a parole application - it is terrible literature, and its continual dodging behind passages from The Bible is - to me, at least - impossibly annoying.

But the biggest message of this annoying little book is that Charles ‘Tex’ Watson, who describes himself as having been “Manson’s right hand man”, and was even namechecked in Pink Flamingos has shown himself up as being a self-righteous little tit.

“The rebellious nature of witchcraft is not only propagated through music. For instance, research reveals that the Harry Potter series of sorcery books, movies and other paraphernalia invading our land, is not just fantasy or a world of make believe. The subtle and overt messages of the occult are woven within each adventure of a young wizard, who lies, steals and takes revenge.

The material used in the Potter books results from years of research of occult history and practices. The author claims her world of wizardry is a “world of imagination” and a “moral world.” These practices are affecting the hearts of millions of children, who are being drawn toward Potter-mania.

The prophet Isaiah found the children of Israel scoffing at God, saying, “...let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! [God said,] “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:19b, 20).”

Maybe he always was a self righteous little tit. Maybe that’s why he became a follower of Manson in the first place; because he was looking for a God figure so that he didn’t have to think for himself, but you know what? After wading through this monumentally tedious little book, I truly don’t care anymore.
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...

A funny thing happened to me on the way to Monsoon. The shop you twits, not a deluge of precipitation.

There was a drone in Exeter on Tuesday. It was hovering (do they hover or fly?) over the main shopping area. A first for me; I have never seen one like that before. Apart from the fact that it will, no doubt, not be long before the ones hovering over English cities will be equipped with some kind of weaponry, it led me to ponder on the thought that it may not be that far off before the world of Deckard becomes a reality. Perhaps you will think me batty, but I fear that it will not be that long before we do know whether androids dream of electric sheep after all.

But that is by the by. The more important thing for me to do here is to introduce you to this week's entrants into the infamous cabinet. So let's get started shall we?

10 New Wave Ornament Set (2ND RUN: PLEASE READ DESCRIPTION) - $50.00 Sold out

*The first run of ornaments sold out overnight. I had no idea how popular these would be so I have now reordered a 2nd shipment of ornaments (arrival says*
Dec 20 - 22). I personally ship out every package and
will be shipping the 2nd run of ornaments sometime
between Dec 21st & 31st (hopefully sooner than
later). Do not anticipate getting these before
Christmas. Thank you for understanding.

"A Very New Wave Christmas" 10 Ornament Set
Exclusive "A Very New Wave Christmas" Ornaments
are finally here to make any Christmas tree weird and
full of obscure christmas memories and puns.
- 10 Christmas Ornament set includes: Snow Mozzer,
Heat Mozzer, Saint Nick Cave, Santa Klaus,
Elfman on a shelf, Siouxsie Lou Who,
Merry Smithmas, David Snowie, Dev-O
Christmas Tree
- 10 Rubber die cut bendable ornament
- Between 3 and 4 inches each
- 10 ornament set is discounted to only $5 an
ornament.
- Only orders in the USA receive ornament
hooks
- Original art by Matthew Lineham"

Makes a refreshing change from the sparkly
Elvis or sickly-cute Beatles decorations that are
so often shoved into the back of the cabinet.

Next we have a little Christmas story – well not
a story per se, but some Chrismo info. I have no
idea whether this is true or not, so perhaps any
of you in the know could confirm one way or
the other:

I discovered – quite by chance – that there is
rather peculiar centuries-old Christmas tradition
in Spain. It apparently began back in the
1700s, and involves ceramic squatting figures
pooping. Yes – you read that right. It would
seem that a peasant farmer version of these
began popping up in Christmas nativity scenes
across the region of Catalonia, alongside the
usual medley of wise men, shepherds and baby
Jesus.

He was christened "El Caganer", which
translates most politely as “the defecator”, the
neat pile of poop beneath him being considered
a sign of fertility and good fortune. Why? Well
one theory dates back to the 18th century and
expounds that peasant farmers who couldn’t
afford fertilizer fashioned a do-it-yourself
approach to soil improvement – I am sure you
get the gist. Poops-a-daisy. That would put
you off eating organic vegetables wouldn’t it?!

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME

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

Check it out now...
Anyway much poop meant crops a-muchly — and pretty soon the act became a good-luck charm in statue form.

Joan Lliteras, a “caganer connoisseur” and former president of Catalonia’s Friends of the Caganer association, told the BBC, “There was a legend that if a countryside man did not put a caganer in the nativity scene, he would have a very bad year collecting vegetables.”

Over time, the traditional peasant caganer — clad in a jaunty red Catalan cap — was joined by a host of celebrities, politicians and sports stars from Spain and abroad.

But Catalans are quick to add that their depiction doesn’t constitute a joke at their expense. Rather the dubious honour is a mark of respect. Sergi Alós Pla, whose family has hand-made caganers in the city of Girona for the past two decades, dryly admits that “some people like it more than others.” His company’s famed Caganer.com catalogue boasts more than 350 characters, with 40 new faces added amid grand fanfare each November to the amusement and delight of tourists, who snap them up as kooky souvenirs.

But if you thought it was safe to now go do a bit of Christmas shopping in a quaint Spanish shop, I have to add here that the Spanish Christmas poo obsession doesn’t end with squatting statues. No sirree - Catalans also dote upon the bounteous “Caga Tió” or Poo Log — literally a log of wood with a cheery face painted on one end and often topped with a red Catalan cap.

Children spend fifteen days before Christmas caring for Caga Tió, fattening it up with gifts of food and drinks and draping it with a blanket to ensure it doesn’t get cold at night.

Come Christmas Eve, children chanting a traditional song literally beat Caga Tió until it expels presents of nuts and candy from its blankety bowels.

Although no one’s really sure where Catalonia’s Yuletide poo preoccupation stems from, Pla says respecting the curious custom may well pay off. “It is weird that our family can live from a crapping figurine,” he says. “But — and I don’t know if it’s because of the caganer tradition — my grandmother always said our family has a lot of luck. Things always seem to go smoothly for us.”

What has this got to do with music? Absolutely nothing really, although I did find all this out whilst reading about the Christmas decorations as described above.

Clearly, I won’t put an example picture here of the figurines available as it they are nothing to do with music. Quite simply, I bet no-one is interested, are they?

Ha, fooled you. I know you really want to have a look don’t you, pop pickers (or should that be poop pickers ... probably not)?

So, I have erred on the side of diplomacy and have ignored those figurines manufactured of people who hail from the world stage, and have chosen a fairly inoffensive example for you (with, of course, hurried apologies to those of you who may be avid Star Wars fans. Please don’t throw rocks or ewoks at me. And don’t even think about tossing Jar Jar Binks my way either. However, I would welcome an Obi-Wan Kenobi but only – I repeat ONLY - if the Ewan McGregor version).

Uh-hum. You have no idea how tempted I am to add a selection of others here...Elton John, Trump, Elvis, Madonna...ah the list goes on. But I’m a good girl, I am.

After that little interlude of puerile nonsense, I suppose it is time to get back to normality.

**Signed Stevie Wonder Guitar With Certificate Of Authenticity - £10,000.00**

“This is a guitar signed by stevie wonder it’s framed and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Dimensions 24x49 inches”
Stray into the woods and forests and you will enter into another world; a world of creatures that live by their own rules, protect their own kind with fierceness, and view all strangers who venture under the protective boughs with deep suspicion. Tread the forest floor with care, for this is also the home of the hairy man - the wildman of the woods. Is he a man? Is he a beast? Is he something in between? Whatever he is, he is spoken about by humans in hushed voices. They are scared of him and they tell tales of him to their children to scare them from entering the hushed darkness of the tree kingdoms. They call him many names; the woodwose, the wudawasa, the wodwos amongst them. The bane of a high-born daughter takes her unintentionally through such a forest on her last journey as a single woman to wed the man of her father's choice. Imposters from another land tramp through such a forest on a mission of their own, killing everything that comes across their path. The lives of some of the creatures that dwell in this place become unavoidably entwined with both these trespassers. The lives of some will change. Some will cease completely.

"STUNNING 1963 SET OF SIGNATURES. MOST LIKELY PAUL MCCARTNEY HAS WRITTEN THE BEATLES ON BOTTOM. " THE GLARE SHOWING IN PHOTOS IS FACT THAT THIS IS PROTECTED IN PROTECTIVE PLASTIC WHICH WAS NOT REMOVED WHEN PHOTOGRAPHING. THE ROYAL COMMAND INVITE SHOWN BELOW THE ORIGINAL AND AUTHENTIC AUTOGRAPH IS A COPY USED TO ENHANCE THE EFFECT OF THE TOTAL FRAMED PIECE.

THE BEATLES - SET OF ALL 4 SIGNATURES

**NOVEMBER 4, 1963 - FAMOUS NIGHT WHEN JOHN LENNON ENCOURAGED THOSE IN CHEAPER SEATS TO CLAP THEIR HANDS AND OTHERS TO RATTLE THEIR JEWELRY. SUPERB SET OF ALL 4 ON PIECE OF MEMORABILIA FROM THAT EVENING. FRAMED WITH PHOTOS THAT SHOW THE BEATLES THAT NIGHT. ROYAL COMMAND PROGRAM RECORD - VEWY QUEEN RECORDS 2 ORIGINAL UPIC PHOTOS - 1980 FROM NEWS RELEASE THAT JOHN LENNON WAS SHOT ORIGINAL MIMEOGRAPH RELEASES INCLUDED”

Well folks, I’m pooped. Oh go on then, but I am not saying who it is. That’s for me to know, and for you to find out:

**Toodle-poop**
”Ev’rywhere I hear the sound of marching charging feet, boy”

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/streetfightingshirts

Auld Man’s Baccie

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

"Sorry... I'm a bit late"
This book, which was released by Gonzo last year is an erudite catalogue of some of the most peculiar records ever made. The authors have lined up, described and put into context 500 "albums" in the expectation that those of you who can't help yourselves when it comes to finding and collecting music will benefit from these efforts in two ways.

• Firstly, you'll know you are not alone.
• Secondly, we hope that some of the work leads you to new discoveries, and makes your life slightly better as a result.

Each issue we are featuring one of these remarkable and peculiar records in a crass attempt to flog you the book.

Miss Pat Collins: The Hip Hypnotist
(Warner Brothers, 1968)
What? Kitsch classic of highest order!

The hitherto unmapped twilight world between Timothy Leary and Eartha Kitt is explored over two sides of vinyl in an album that continues to defy satire, or categorisation. The concept is clear enough, a hypnotist for a hip generation, offering an alternative to psychedelic drugs or eastern religion. Indeed, Miss Collins lays it bare in the opening seconds: “Let’s turn on, by that I mean the power of the mind...how to have a great self-image, without the use of anything else,” this from the opening 13 minute epic exploring a trance like state of self-hypnosis, positive thinking and creative visualization. This opening cut, “Turn on” comes with a loose, hip jazz, backing mixed well behind Collins' instructions. Collins has enough echo on her voice to provide a vaguely trippy feel and if she stumbles over the lines, occasionally sounding hesitant, it only adds to the ramble/rapping quality suggested by the jazz. So far, so good. The identity crisis arrives with storm force once the singing starts. “Imagination” (the second track) is, just about, in tune with “Turn on” but by the third cut Collins is giving it a tinkling piano, high drama, old trouper take on “I Only Have Eyes For You.” There’s a brief spoken ramble introducing the song, making a vague connection with the vibe of “Turn on,” but, in the opinion of the present authors at least, she’s fooling nobody. “I’ll See you in my Dreams” follows, by which point it’s more hip-operation than hip territory, but just when all hope appears gone a high-camp cavort through “I Think I’m Going out of my Head” puts a truly transcendental quality back into the tack. And, we salute the ham-handed slinkiness that sees “You Stepped out of a Dream” as the correct closer. This is kitsch of a remarkable resilience, capable of surviving decades without any dimming of its original lustre. The Hip Hypnotist is so sure of its unique combination of appealing to an intuitive and hip market, whilst simultaneously beating them over the head with a massive stick so they get the marginal relevance of show tunes to the general message of self-help, we feel sure it will be hunted down and loved by sound hounds for many years to come.
Gregg Kofi Brown has transcended many genres of music...

Rock ‘n’ Roll and UFOs is an anthology of music from Gregg Kofi Brown’s career and contains previous unreleased songs, remixes and demos, with many guest musicians and artists such as Sting guitarist Dominic Miller, Bomb da Bass, Osibisa, the cast of the Who’s Tommy, The Chimes’ Pauline Henry, the Who’s former keyboard guru John Rabbit Bundrick and Seal guitarist Gus Isidore.

The CD is a companion to Gregg Kofi Brown’s autobiography of the same name which covers his early career in Los Angeles and London. From his first pro tour with Joe Cocker and Eric Burdon to close encounters of a third kind in a California desert and his adventures touring the world with African rock pioneers Osibisa. His journey includes starring in hit west end productions in London, recording and touring with infamous rock bands like Hanoi Rocks and the Members.

His first tour in Gambia and Senegal West Africa supporting African superstar Youssou N’Dour is well documented, as is his work in the African and West Indian music scene in the UK.

The last few years has seen Kofi perform with Damon Albarn’s African Express and collaborate live with Amadou & Mariam featuring Beth Orton.

CD and book available soon from Gonzo Multimedia
I think the dog is stealing from the fridge.

M. A. Raines
And here we are, once again, at the end of another week. And I think - although I cannot be bothered to check - it is the second week running when I am not complaining about my life being overly peculiar. In fact the only peculiar thing to have happened this week was entirely my fault, and was down to me being an idiot rather than the Cosmic Joker playing tricks upon his hapless subjects.

Yesterday (Thursday) I got up bright and early, performed my ablutions, took my medicine and was downstairs well before nine. I had my breakfast, and - as I felt a little drowsy - I thought that a short doze in my armchair couldn't do harm. I woke up at five in the evening, and it transpired that I had taken my night-time meds rather than my morning ones, and the tranquilisers and happy pills had soothed me into the arms of Morpheus.

Like I said, It was me being excessively stupid, and mothing particularly weird about it at all.

Today, (Friday) so far, there are two things of note. I overslept (probably because of having screwed up my sleep patterns yesterday) and got up in an unpleasant rush, and there is a new Rolling Stones album out.

I cast the I Ching:

"Deliberating an exchange, not yet settled. Great distress, but there is joy."
GET NAKED!

...with the Pink Fairies

Andy Colquhoun, Duncan Sanderson, Jaki Windmill, Russell Hunter and George Butler

THEIR FIRST NEW ALBUM IN THREE DECADES!

GONZO MULTIMEDIA HST492CD/DVD/LP

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