

MAX WAX ATTAX

By babs goldberg

The Radiators
Law of the Fish
Produced by Rodney Mills
Epic Records

It's true that a record shouldn't be judged by its cover—especially when the cover stands for what's inside.

The Radiator's giant fish cover represents the abstractness of their lyrics. In the song *Like Dreamers Do* Ed Voler's clear voice is masked by the ridiculous lyrics, "...Won't you look at you now, you mad molecule..." and also in *This Wagon's Gonna Roll* when he sings "...Ready to chew up the road and spit it back out..."

The music is at a somewhat slow tempo and carries a soft rock beat. They overdo the maracas though, and it sounds like a rattlesnake was slithering through

"Fish Head Music" productions while the band was recording.

The Art of Noise
In No Sense? Nonsense!
Produced by Art of Noise
Chrysalis Records

This band definitely has an art—not necessarily of noise, though.

Their music is just instrumental.

Each song tells its own story-like the background music in movies. Some contain motorcycle noises, water sounds, and a wide-range of keyboards.

In *Ode to Don Jose* the band plays a tribute to the former TV series, *Dragnet* by playing its theme music. A man later says, "...I carry a badge; I work here..." There are even footsteps towards the end of the song.

Other than the or-

chestra they hired, there are trumpet, saxophone and trombone players.

Even with new vocals, these songs each have their own message.

The Soup Dragons
Hang Ten
Produced by the Soup Dragons
Sire Records

The Soup Dragons are a punk rock band from Glasgow, Scotland.

Their first single *Whole Wide World* went up to number two on the U.K. charts. In fact, none of their singles have ever fallen below number one or two on the indie charts.

Hang Ten is a collection of fast-paced songs: fast drums and guitar and a fast punk-style of singing.

They call their music "ancient punk." Whatever they call it, it's definitely punk.

Bryan Ferry
Bette Noire
Produced by Simon Puxley
Reprise Records

Bryan Ferry worked on all aspects of this album. He not only took care of the lead vocals and instruments, but he also directed and helped produce it.

The vocals are a soothing blend of Ferry's voice and female background singers. Ferry also makes sure that the music doesn't ever drown them out.

The song named after the album's title is interesting; throughout the entire song Ferry asks a girl to be his—then at the end, he sings "...Beware of Bette Noire..." (which is French for black beast.) Figure that one out.

Ferry did a good job with this album.

Billy Joel
Kohlept
Produced by Jim Boyer and Brian Ruggles
Columbia Records

Billy Joel made his concert in the U.S.S.R. productive by creating a live LP.

This two-album set contains everyone's favorites including: *An Innocent Man*, *Allentown*, *Uptown*, and *Back in the U.S.S.R.* only two weren't his own words and music.

He dedicates *Goodnight Saigon* for all of his "friends who had to go off and fight in Vietnam—they left as boys but they came back as old men, but they were the lucky ones because many of them didn't come back at all..."

As he says it in the dedication, it is translated in Russian for everyone.

And if just having Joel in the U.S.S.R. isn't enough, there are many pictures

on the inside album cover of him (and Christie) at the show.

Paul Carrack
One Good Reason
Produced by Christopher Niel
Chrysalis Records

At first, this album sounds like just ordinary soft rock songs. But, the songs are catchy—the kind of songs that you hear in your mind when the album isn't even playing.

Don't Shed a Tear and *Button Off My Shirt* are two of the tunes that really stick.


Give Me a Chance is one of Carrack's slow songs with a soft-sounding guitar and keyboards.

Carrack's pleasant voice makes his slow songs more appealing than the faster ones. yet, the lyrics remain clear throughout the album.



AT IT AGAIN — The Point hosts kamikaze shots at the Villager, this weekend
photo by walt kwasniewsk

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