

Here it is... the moment you've all been waiting for (no?), a list of my favorite records from 1981. See what you can get away with being editor? Seriously, I'd love to see your charts as well, so send us a list of your faves from the past year, and maybe in our next issue we will publish a few.

A few observations: only 6 of the 20 records listed are by American bands. I guess that blows my credibility doesn't it? But wait... maybe I haven't blown it all together yet cause my top 3 singles are American. My all around favorite single was the Stick Figures EP from Tampa. The Sound of America's Suburbs! Not since the Feelies LP has a record captured THAT RHYTHM; full of neat little time changes, tinkertoy textures, and all kinds of musical additives. It's all so subtle in a quiet sort of way but don't let that fool you.

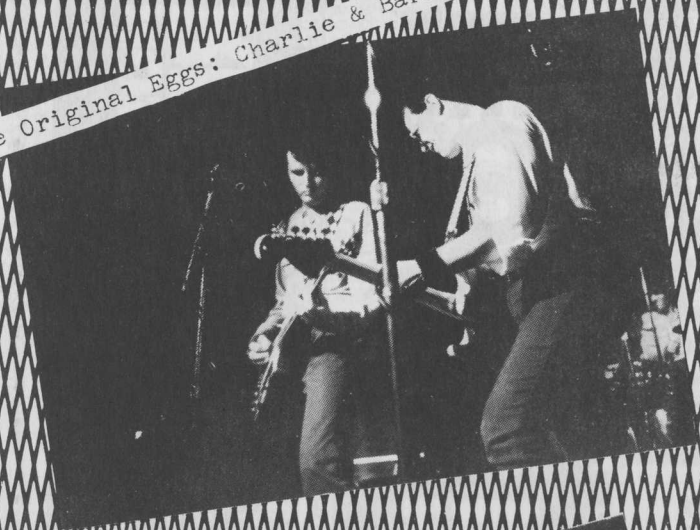
As for the long players it was a tough choice between Wah and New Order but in the end (actually I flipped a coin) the Liverpoolians beat all. Frankly it has a better sense of humor and I've had the LP for a longer period of time. When will someone wise up and release this in the U.S.A.? Favorite record label of the year: Postcard Records of Scotland. Of course with Orange Juice now being distributed via Polydor, the break-up of Joseph K, etc. the future doesn't look so clear. Stay tuned for further developments.

ten for '81

1. WAH-"NAH=POO-THE ART OF BLUFF"
(ETERNAL)
2. NEW ORDER-"MOVEMENT"(FACTORY)
3. X-"WILD GIFT"(SLASH)
4. JOSEPH K-"THE ONLY FUN IN
TOWN"(POSTCARD)
5. AU PAIRS-"PLAYING WITH A
DIFFERENT SEX"(HUMAN)
6. CURE-"FAITH"(FICTION)
7. SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES-
"JU JU"(PVC)
8. FIRE ENGINES(FAST AMERICA)
9. CIRCLE JERKS-"GROUP SEX"
(FRONTIER)-really 1980 shhh!
10. MODERN ENGLISH-"MESH & LACE"
(4AD)

1. STICK FIGURES EP(GREEN)
2. ESG 12" EP(99)
3. MISSION OF BURMA-"SIGNALS,
CALLS, & MARCHES" EP(ACE OF
HEARTS)
4. NEW ORDER-"PROCESSION"(FACTORY)
5. CRAMPS-"NEW KIND OF KICK"(IRS)
6. ALTERED IMAGES-"DEAD POP STARS"
(CBS)
7. ORANGE JUICE-"POOR OLD SOUL"
(POSTCARD)
8. SLITS-"EARTHBEAT & EARTHDUB"
(CBS)
9. CURE-"CHAROLETTE SOMETIMES"
(FICTION)
10. AZTEC CAMERA-"LOST OUTSIDE
THE TUNNEL"(POSTCARD)

The Original Eggs: Charlie & Barry



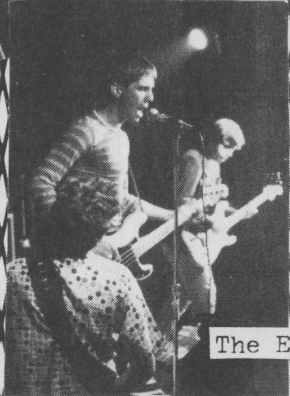
Susan Cichlid circa 79'



Lisa Nash of the Sneakers
"Debbie who?"



"Rankin" Eddie O'Brien
Jah Son of the Eat 79'



The Eat with Glenn



Cookie & Fish



Smegma AKA Teddi & the Frat Girls



"Rankin"
Jah Son of the Ba



The Eat with Glenn

Smegma AKA Teddi & the Frat Girls



James Chance brings in the 80's



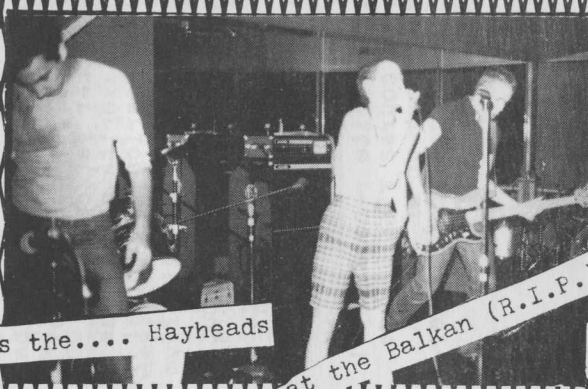
The Reactions



"where are the street kids?"

the
essentials

No photos...
just a logo.



It's the.... Hayheads

at the Balkan (R.I.P.)

The way it was when bands
had a place to play. All
local bands pictured are
either dead or different.

Chi Pig and James Chance are
here for prestige only. All
photos by Jim Johnson except
Smegma, Reactions, the Eat
(without dread) by Leslie
and Hayheads by Lane Sheekey.

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