



TALKING SCARLET

COMPETITION RESULTS

As you can see from our new title, the PSFC finally has a name. We all felt that "Talking Scarlet" summed up the contents of the newsletter perfectly - and of course, it's a track from "Protest Songs".

The suggestion came from Steve Sharp of Oldham who receives a signed copy of the "Best Of" video plus a signed "Protest Songs" poster. Honourable mentions and "Protest Songs" posters go to Eric White of Nantucket, USA with "The Nightingale", Michael Lynch of Mountmellick, Eire with "Sproutrage", Sue Simmons from Lincoln with "The Pride", Charlotte Harrison of St. Albans with "The Filling Station" and Martin Ling of Enfield with Prefab Gab". Martin gets special mention for the funniest/dafdest suggestion with "Tyne Daily" - one for Cagney & Lacy fans there!

We're starting to get some of the either older or more obscure Sprouts songs in our lyrics section now which is good fun. This issue we feature a track which appeared on the b-side of some formats of "Hey Manhattan" - check out.

"Tornado"

They call her Talking Tornado
She sweeps through your head as you sleep
You think that the damage is minor
But the future ends up looking bleak

She comes like a change in the weather
You don't really need it at all
You say that you're totally indifferent
But deep down you're glad that she called

I've an old wheelbarrow of accidents
Symphonies tipped on her tongue
I'm lying them out but they're bleaker than
breath
But one time they made me feel young

She's a real bobby dazzler
As far as that goes
She's an enigma that grows

Slow down your heart and forget the time
Close your door and open mine
Clench your fists as the blizzard grows
I want to, I want to, I want to

But I won't call you Tornado

The man in the moon is not smiling
I don't really blame him for that
It may be a big step for mankind
But it's just another crease in his hat

She comes like a change in the weather
Like old friends who've long since lost touch
You say that it really can't matter
But the truth is it matters too much

One is the axle while two is the wheel
See this wagon is real

Slow down your heart and forget the time
Close your door and open mine
Clench your fists as the blizzard grows
I want to, I want to, I want to

Sit right back in your rocking chair
Things you said are everywhere
Words music and everything
I want to, I want to, I want to

But I won't call you Tornado
Call you Tornado
I won't call you Tornado

TALKING SCARLET

YOUR LETTERS

Well, it's a case of "come on you Brits", as most of our recent fan mail has come from outside the UK. Namechecks go out to Marie-Noelle Bauer of Chevy Chase, MD in the States who wrote us long letter while flying from Alsace back to America. Also to long-time fan Gregory Alexandre of Maisons-Alfort in France who says once we've finished the "Steve McQueen" lyrics let's have all the b-sides - consider it done!

A more recent fan is Daniel James of Ogden, Utah, USA who discovered the Sprouts on an after-midnight radio special on X-96. Since then he has got all the albums and become a firm fan. He cites "Jordan" as his favourite - "the disc made me cry, it made me reflect, it moved me and it changed my life".

Finally, hello to Toni Monil who writes from Novska in Croatia who tells us how much "The Sound of Crying" means to him - "I'm so close to war but it's a life of surprises so I hope for a better tomorrow".

Thanks to all of you for your letters; we love to hear from you and find out what you're up to so keep writing.

~~~~~

## TALKING SCARLET

~~~~~

NEWS

Paddy continues with his demoing of the new album, He's nearing completion now and I think we're realistically looking at commencing recording in January.

Meanwhile I asked Wendy what she was doing to keep busy while we're waiting to get cracking. In between putting some vocals on some of Paddy's songs - "While he's not looking" - Wend's been involved in some interesting projects. She's been working with schoolkids on an ecological music project called "Ocean World" in association with the WWF - no not the wrestlers - teaching them various vocal techniques. She's also been on several experimental singing courses including Bulgarian, Mongolian and Tibetan techniques. Musically she recommends the current Björk album, the new one by the Cocteau Twins and "Tabula Rasa" by Arvo Pärt, the contemporary Estonian composer (as if you didn't know).

~~~~~

## TALKING SCARLET

~~~~~

That's about all for this time - let me be the very first to wish you a great Christmas!



See you in '94

Phil
Phil

*Prefab Sprout
The Kane Gang
Martin Stephenson and the Daintees
Hurrah!
Fatima Mansions*



*Kitchenware Records
Saint Thomas Street Stables
Saint Thomas Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4LE*

*Telephone: 091 232 4895
Fax No: 091 232 0262*

The group was formed by singer/writer Paddy McAloon with his brother Martin and some friends in County Durham where they lived in the early 1980's. Their very first single was released on their own record label, Candle Records, in 1983. Kitchenware were sent a copy of the single and have been the Sprout's label ever since! This first single was called "Lions In My Own Garden (Exit Someone)" and was subsequently re-issued as Prefab Sprouts first Kitchenware single. Wendy Smith had been doing some vocals with the group and she joined Paddy and Martin full-time at this point. Another record, "The Devil Has All The Best Tunes", was also released before the band went off to Scotland to record their debut album. The LP "Swoon" was made on a very small budget but turned out very well and entered the L.P. chart in the Top 20. It also got some of the best reviews of the year and let everyone know that something new and different had arrived!

Never to be rushed, it was two years before the next Prefab Sprout L.P. was finished. "Steve McQueen" saw the final link in the current Prefab Sprout line-up with drummer Neil Conti joining the band. "Steve McQueen" has already been voted one of the Top 20 albums of all time and continues to sell very well three years later. The first Sprouts' hit single featured on the L.P., even though it had to be re-released before being a hit! The record was, of course, "When Love Breaks Down", which saw Prefab Sprout on the likes of "Top Of The Pops" and "Wogan" for the first time. Several other singles came from "Steve McQueen" - you'll find a full list in the Discography.

The group did a major U.K. and European tour in 1985 and immediately returned to the U.K. to record the legendary "Protest Songs" L.P.. This was a collection of songs which Paddy and the group recorded really quickly and which has not been commercially released as yet (don't worry you'll be the first to know when a release date is announced!).

Paddy then began working on the songs which were to become "From Langley Park To Memphis". Once again, he refused to be rushed and so it was that the L.P. wasn't released until March 14th 1988. In its first week the L.P. entered the chart in the Top 5 and has been in the charts ever since. "The King Of Rock 'N' Roll" has already been in the Top Ten and there are obviously lots more hits on the album, not least the newly re-released "Cars And Girls"! All of which brings us right up to date - September 1988.

I hope this little piece of history has answered at least some of your questions, but if not, here's what I'd like you to do. When you write back why not send in a list of questions and I'll make a list of the most popular ones and give you the answers? Anyway here's the discography I promised you: