Inside: Why DAVID ESSEX would like to live in America! **LEO SAYER** The **ONLY PAPER** with the **BBC** charts **GOODIES:** Can you EVER take them seriously? QUATRO: 'Now they're mobbing me in the laundry'

Take a little Goodie advice

take the Goodies record seriously, well more or less anyway, and if the result is a new teeny sensation to rival Donny, Bill Oddie won't

I knew it sounds unlikely and I'm going to have a hard job convincing you, but first consider the facts.

Bill's last venture into

unknown territory was with a Cambridge University review that wandered into London and knocked the humour brigade for six. It was something akin to the Beatles' early explosion back in '62, only instead of upstaging the music business, Messrs ODDIE, BROOK-TAYLOR, GARDEN, and CLEESE (and ilk) breathed fresh air into From this amateur start

that shook the London establishment has grown the Sorry I'll Read That Again, Goodies, and Python-type humour; if you like the

Goodies first album are finding their way into your friendly local record shop. The release date was set to meet the Christmas trade but like many other records, the Goodies collection was late. Fair enough, but what bothers ageing superstar Bill as he reviews progress in the secret confines of his Hampstead Heath Hideaway is that the blighters have filed the record "It isn't really a comedy

under "British Humourists." under 'British Humourists.'
Bill, who looks strangely
slimmed down inspite of the
Christmas pud season, is
deadly serious about the
fourth floor of one of those tall
thin bouses that back onto
Hampstead Heath, he'd even
got fellow Goody, Graham songs are taken from the

arguments.

I sat there wondering when the room was going to take off into space leaving me an outsider in the lastest Goodies

Garden present to bolster his

seriously," said Bill, lighting a pencil thin cheroot. "And that's a major problem at the moment. The point we've been trying to make ever since we

recorded this damn thing is that it shouldn't be filed under humorists because it's not merely a funny record. But you cannot get this through. Still, probably a lot of listeners don't have such a set attitude as the people who put records

"II isn't really a comedy record. There are one or two funny bits. There's a big range which is risky. you do a lot of things and please some people for two tracks and others for two tracks and others for two tracks and nobody likes the whole thing." All but one of the eleven

Goodies television series. Two
of the out and out funnies are
by Graham, Stuff That Gibbon
and The Sparrow Song, and
the rest, apart from All Things Bright And Beautful (a straight rock version of the original and released uneventare from Bill.

He reckons he's written

about 50 songs for the Goodies and about 100 funny songs for I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. The ones on the record are the ones they like best. But back to the problem.

Bill: "We have a record that is a problem. It's not typical of our image and thank you Decca, there's been no advertising, publicising or anything, and we felt it was very important that since the record is not typical of our image we needed something saying this is a new venture. It's not the Goodies doing a

comedy record, it's the Goodies doing a music record. The only advert described it as lunatic . . . maybe they are for releasing it. But we had a meeting and said we didn't want to push the comedy side of it. It's just ridiculous." Bill says he can only

describe it as a music album.

Graham: "It's a difficult album. I think the first time people play it, they might be

funny, or not funny enough, and then play it again and actually quite like it. And they might be puzzled by some of the songs, when they are

waiting for the funny bits."
It's a cross section, Bill decides, and admits that much to his amazement he enjoys listening to it. He's very nervous about how it's going to go down though, reckons they have taken a chance, but believes it works. It's the range that worries him. "By and large I think pop followers are a little bit

conditioned not to take range. They may know someone's sound and expect a whole album to have that sound. It does demand a bit of work. I mean I hate the feeling of people putting the record on and just leaving it in the background. We feel it is a tistening record . . . party record as well. But I hope people listen to the words." Although there is an

impressive antique drum kit, various saxaphones, flutes, a

birds, in his den, Bill says his first instrument is his gramophone. His faste ranges from "rather essetre jarr" is Randy Newman, The Band and Harry Nilsson, on that particular instrument, and when it comes to getting song down he hums them onto tape.

The musicians used by a Goodies for the series and album are what he calls really heavy band" — most really heavy band" - mostly ace session men - hall of Sort Machine for starters! When the lads themselves have ago it's all down to guitar, penny whistle and bongoes! Graham and Bill doh't collaborate on songe.

collaborate on songs.

"Graham does write a few and they are usually very ship

would Bill like to become a rock star?

"No. I'm too old. But yes!"
Even if that sounds unlikely there's a more than rembs chance he could write a hi song for someone else. Apar, from the Goodles record dea there's a song publishing dea

during an afternoon with furry **Bill Oddie**

Peter Harvey's

given some

he'll be producing demos, Goodies in mind, and hopefully these will be recorded by suitable artists

Although Bill says he has no confidence in his musical judgement, he believes given six month deadline to write a

hit song, he could do it.

"Getting them to the right
people and with the right arrangement is 90 per cent of the battle really. So much of the basic material is just nothing. It's the sound and whose singing it. It's unlikely that if Slade were singing your song it would not be a hit."

Having decided he could do
it, he admits that interests him
least. It's more likely to
happen more by accident than judgement, though don't be surprised if Bill comes out with a solo album on Randy Newman lines eventually And there's got to be, by contract, an album and two singles for this year and next,

They may even pop up on the Old Grey Whistle Test yet. Or even on the road with a band, that's something, time and energy permitting, that they would like to do.

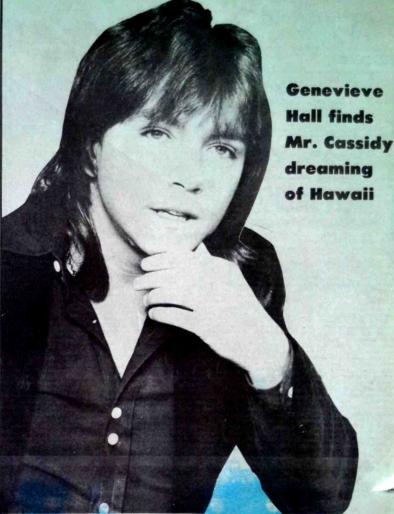
With the Goodies, as you know, anything is possible.

And if people dismiss the album because it's not funny enough?

"If that's the be-all and endall of it, if they say it's not funny therefore I don't like it, well I suppose that's up to

"One reviewer," said Graham, "thought the single was not as good as Monty Python. It wasn't actually as good as Beethoven either.

Finally, from Bill: "The chances are that it won't get enough exposure and I'm sure a lot of people won't like it because of what they are expecting, and by the second album, if it's still not a comedy album, they will realise that they have to listen to this in a bit of a different way . .



David's off round the

David Cassidy's love for there. When asked about his new home. David

world

power-station. Perhaps Mr Heath would consider heat

practical period of time." During his tour the Far East with a concer

house to be totally self- venue in Auckland on acontained, with solar February 26, where a crowd energy or wind generators of 22.500 leoole is expected for power; but according to to attend. So who said that David's fans, his very own he was never going to tour wand the contained of the contain

All our yesterdays

Peter Jones visits the vaults of pop's most famous brother and sister

VOI MAKE a record, and it his the top ten, and the money rolls in and pressures of farms about arranging some of my control in and pressures of farms are taid upon you. One of the ten of the control in the frightening he control in the fright he control in the frightening he control in the frightening he

"I go to Hawaii because of his new house, but also Cricket Ground, on March in Hong Kong on March 19 there, I just get a good he's very excited about his 10, Adelaide on March 12 and an additional six felling every time I wake massive world tour which and W.A.C.A. Ground, concerts being formulated up". is set to open in New Perth, on March 15. The for Japan during the period He wants his new dome Zealand at the Eden Park concerts for these dates of March 22 - 29.