ARE MATT BIANCO THE NEW MOTORHEAD?



MARCH 2, 1985 45p

UB40 Madness, the Specials & the Pioneers feed the world

LOOSE ENDS GRANDMASTER FLASH

News M Knebworth goes Purple

THE NEWLY reformed Deep Purple will be playing an outdoor concert at Knebworth Park near Stevenage on June 22. Tickets are £12.50 plus a 50p booking fee which must be added to the cost of each ticket. They are available by mail from Deep Purple Concert, PO Box 281, London N15 cuy. Make cheques and postal orders 5LW. Make cheques and postal orders payable to Deep Purple Concert enclose an SAE and allow six weeks for delivery. There is also a credit card hotline on 01-439 4061 and tickets can hotline on 01-439 4061 and tickets ca also he purchased from London Theatre Bookings in Shaftesbury Avenue, Mike Lloyds Record Shop in Stoke, Dereks in Swansea, Nottingham Way Ahead, Derby Way Ahead, Lincoln Way Ahead and Cavendish Travel in Leeds. More acts will be added to the bill

later. Tickets will be £14 on the day.



EDDY GRANT, who still hasn't managed to get rid of that giant spider on his head, releases his single 'Baby Come Back' on March 4. It's a re-recorded and re-arranged version of the song he had a hit with 17 years ago when he was part of the Equals.

• THE PERT Pogues will be playing a St Patrick's Day show at the Hammersmith Clarendon on March 17. Faugh A Ballagh as they say (that's 'Clear The Way' — illustrating Robin Smith's impressive mastery of the Irish language?).



PIECE OF MEAT

MIGHTY MEAT Loaf releases his single 'Piece Of The Action' on March 15. Taken from his album 'Bad Attitude', the track has been completely remixed by Tony Tavener, Paul Jacobs, Bob Kulick and Meat himself. The seven inch version will be available in a full colour picture bag and comes complete with a three inch round cloth patch. The 12 inches will be an avtined remix and will also feature 'Bad Attitude'

incher will have an extended remix and will also feature 'Bad Attitude' as a bonus track. Not only that, but you get a double sided poster featuring a shot of Meat Loaf.

A shaped disc will also be available in the shape of the skull which hung from Meat Loaf's giant motorbike on tour.

Reggae aids Ethiopia

THE LATEST record to offer aid to Ethiopia will be a giant reggae extravaganza. Recorded last week at Eddy Grant's Stamford Hill studio 'Let's Make Africa Green Again' is rumoured to feature Smiley Culture, Dennis Brown, Winston Reedy, Aswad, Black Slate, Alton Ellis, Matumbi and Misty In Roots. All proceeds will go to Save The Children.

GO GO exponents Pump Blenders Felease their single 'Love Boat (Get On Down Y'All)' this week. Their album 'Funk The People Live' will be out soon

 MICK JAGGER releases his first solo album 'She's The Boss' on March 4. The album has nine tracks six of which were written by the man himself. 'Lonely At The Top' was co-written with Keith Richards. The album was mostly recorded in New Yark.

• THE FARMERS Boys who release their album 'With These Hands' on March 11, have lined up a tour. Chew some straw at London Goldsmiths College February 27, Salford University March 1, York University 2, Hull Tower Night Club 3, Newton Abbot Seale Hayne College 7, Bath University 8, Cambridge College of Art And Technology 9. Technology 9.

THESE CHARMING people are Madam X who release their debut album 'We Reserve The Right' on March 4. The four piece is fronted by luscious nymphs Maxine and Roxy and they'll be touring here in the spring.



niks the Alarm. The Oxford Road now' (BBC 2, 7.15pm) features avid Gahan from Depeche Mode. ne Farmers Boys, Colour Field and nice Long.

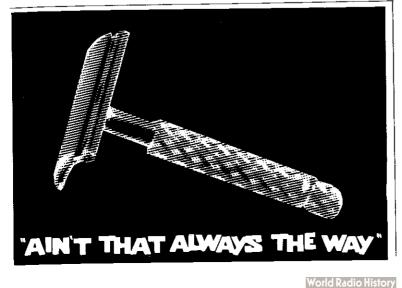
Janice Long. SATURDAY'S 'Saturday Superstore' (BBC 1, 3am) features Lenny Bennett, Chris Searle, Mike Peters from the Alarm and (gasp) David Cassidy. If that's not to your liking then there's 'No 73' (ITV, 10am). 'Punk To Present' (Radio 1, 1pm) looks at rock stars who weathered punk. Paul McCartney will be giving his opinions along with Roger Taylor and Cliff Richard. 'The Other Side Of The Tracks' (C4, 6pm) sees Paul Gambaccini talking to David Byrne of the Talking Heads. Bet that's really exciting. 'In Concert' (Radio 1, 6.30pm) has Marillion all the way from Hammersmith Odeon. SUNDAY finds Jim Diamond and Jill SUNDAY finds Jim Diamond and Jill from Strawberry Switchblade among the contestants wracking their brains in 'The Great Rock 'N' Roll Trivia Quiz' (Radio 1, 4.30pm). TUESDAY'S 'Whistle Test' has Joan Armatrading and James King And The Lone Wolves. Woof woof.

WINSTON REEDY releases his single 'Superstar' on March 4. It's a double A-side with 'Baby Love' also included. Winston will be releasing his second solo album towards the end of March.

KILLING JOKE, who release their ALLING JOAC, who release their album 'Night Time' this week, have added a couple of dates to their tour at Hanley Victoria Hall March 4 and Liverpool Royal Court 5. A special remix of their 'Love Like Blood' single is now available. Known as the 'Gestalt Mix' it lasts a formidable six minutes 30 seconds.



KIRSTY MACCOLL now has her very KIRSTY MACCOLL forwinds ner very own fan club. Kirsty fans should write to Kirsty C/O Stiff Records, 22 St Peter's Square, London W6. Kirsty gave birth last week to a bouncing 71b 6oz boy. Congratulations to her and husband Steve Lillywhite.









Reviewed by HAZELL DEAN

DAZZ BAND 'Heartbeat'

(Motown) Definitely my favourite of the dance tracks. It's my kind of music. It's funk and it's got a good production. I shall rush out and buy it. I love the guitar riffs. I like the smoochy stuff — being a romantic type of person.

THE FIXX 'I Will' (MCA) I do like this. It's got a good atmosphere. They've never made it big in the UK but I hope they do. I can understand why they're successful in America. I like the singer's voice — he can sing. I will, I will, I will buy it. At the end of the day it's a good song.

SINGLE OF THE WEEK

PAUL YOUNG 'Every Time You Go Away' (CBS) This has got to go down as my favourite. Paul Young has got to be the best British white male singer. This has got everything; a great song, powerful production and he's a talented performer. I'm so glad to hear Paul's having singing lessons for his breath control after his vocal problems last year because he has a marvellous voice and I, for one, would be sad not to hear it again. This record got me on the first listening.

DAVID CASSIDY 'The Last Kiss' (Arista) What's that

Strange noise at the beginning? Did Rolf Harris sneak into the session? It takes a long time to take off but it's good at the end. I find the lyrics slightly doomy. I was never a fan of his but I loved the old songs. Nevertheless I like this song.

ELAINE PAIGE 'Tonight Is The

Night' (Avatar) We once did a TV series together called 'Dne More Time' just before she did 'Evita'. I can't help it, I'm a sucker for this type of song — you know, melodies, strings, lyrics you can hear and understand and all that boring stuff. I do like her voice on this record — better than her previous records. It's caught her middle range and it suits her. But I'm not so sure about the song.

VIKKI BENSON 'Passion' (Bronze) MIDNIGHT STAR 'Operator' (Solar) Vikki Benson's record is odd coming from a heavy metal



label famous for Motorhead and Girlschool. It's a very weak dance track. The song's not bad but the production doesn't punch out enough. Bronze should consider using a heavier dance-type producer for this lady. Now Midnight Star is a well-produced dance track. I think this'll be a hit. I know I'm going to hear this a lot when I'm touring the clubs at the end of March. I like the vocoder in the voices. This would get me up onto the dancefloor — it's got body talk.

JULIAN LENNON 'Say You're Wrong' (Charisma) He's so much like his father in voice and looks but unfortunately he's not as talented. I did like 'Too Late For Goodbyes' but this does nothing for me. Julian should look out. Jagger and Richards could serve a writ for the verse it's very much like 'Let's Spend The Night Together'.

THE CAST OF BIKE SHEDS 'Behind The Bike Sheds' (MCA) Yes, well, I've not seen this kid's TV show but I know what goes on behind the bike sheds. I'm not into that sort of thing ... and I'm not into this record.

THE CARS 'Why Can't I Have You' (Elektra) I love that kind of voicing — the close breathy harmonies. This doesn't grab me as much as their last hit 'Drive' but I think it has a very strong hookline. It took me a couple of listens but it does grow on you.

THE LOTUS EATERS 'It Hurts' (Arista) With a name like the Lotus Eaters, I thought, 'Haze, you're not going to like this' and I was right. Sorry fellas.

THE FIRM 'Radioactive' (Atlantic) There's some funny lyrics in this song. "Don't stand too close, you might catch it". (As if). I just can't get into this kind of

track.

TINA CHARLES 'Love Hunger' (**Typhoon**) A weak production, if this is a dance track. I feel the construction of this song has got lost along the way somewhere. Her voice has been mixed much too far into the track and it's too edgy. I liked her earlier songs when she was with Biddu.



THELMA HOUSTON '(I Guess) It Must Be Love' (MCA) Thelma Houston has always been one of my favourite singers. Again this is my kind of music. She's the type of singer who can make any song come alive and, to be honest, in this case the singer is much stronger than the song. I loved the last single 'You Used To Hold Me So Tight' — one of my favourite recent dance records.

STARVATION 'Starvation' (Zarjazz) This is a record for the

Ethiopian Famine Relief Appeal featuring members of UB40, Madness and Special AKA. It was a hit in Jamaica for the Pioneers, who are also on this record, in 1969. Df course, I want it to work for what it represents, and we're all trying to do our bit. In fact, I prefer this one to the other one that came out at Christmas.

UB40 'I'm Not Fooled' (Dep International) It's got strong lyrics but is the song strong enough? I'm not sure. But I do like UB40 and Ali Campbell's got a super voice.

ROMAN HOLLIDAY 'One Foot Back In Your Door' (Jive) We haven't heard from these guys for a while but I never particularly liked their earlier stuff and, I have to be honest, I don't like this. This kind of middle of the road pop record leaves me cold.

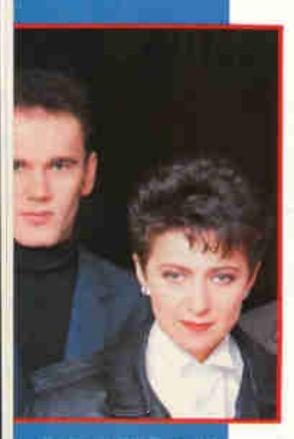
JOAN ARMATRADING

'Temptation' (A&M) This is a lady I respect and admire very much. She's in the same league as greats like Joni Mitchell, Janis lan and Carole King. It's not one of my favourite Joan Armatrading tracks but, like the Cars single, it's growing with every play.

ALVIN STARDUST 'Got 1 Little Heartache' (Chrysalis) What happened to the black leather? I could cope with that! I quite like the song but Alvin's not my kind of man. But he still keeps having hits.

ROY AYRES 'Poo Poo La La' (CBS) Yawn, yawn. No you can not kiss me on my 'Poo Poo La La'!

THIRD WORLD 'Sense Of Purpose' (CBS) I nearly missed listening to this one but I'm glad I didn't. I've always liked Third World and I'd like to see this one happen. It's a good song, a strong hookline and a terrific production.



ATT BIANCO'S Basia has a secret ambition. The sophisticated singer would like to make a heavy metal record! "I love Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix," she says. "One day I would like to get into a recording studio, let my hair down and scream it all out. I want to really enjoy myself and deafen people.

I like music like heavy metal because it is really expressive and uninhibited. It's wild and it's crazy so I can appreciate it. Jimi Hendrix was a wonderful innovator and a great showman. I love watching him if they ever feature him on television. Led Zeppelin were the same, they had so much power and joy.

"Arfother singer I like is Janis Joplin. She could just go on stage and capture an audience through her voice. It was such a pity that she died so young. It was a real tragedy."

I suppose that Iron Bianco or Def Matt does have a certain ring to it. But before Basia slips into a tight mini skirt, spandex and her best Pat Benatar wig and Mark or Danny grow their hair and take lessons from Lemmy, there's Matt Bianco's current single 'More Than I Can Bear' to be considered. It's a splendid remix of an album track.

Watch out for the video too, which has an intriguing Art Deco theme. Basia looks like a silent movie siren and because Mark couldn't grow a beard quickly enough for the shoot, they had to stick some fake stubble on him. They put wax underneath the stubble to make it stick and it must have been agony to take it all off

The flickering silent movie scenes in the video were shot through the revolving spokes of a bicycle wheel to get the right effects. Sophisticated stuff to be sure.

ASIA'S MARLENE Dietrich looks should certainly go a bundle in Germany and Europe where the band are very popular at the moment. They owe some of their success there to an appearance on the Des O'Connor show! A German producer was so impressed by the performance that he invited them over for a leading German programme. The only trouble was that they had to dress up as Pearly kings and queens.

"The show had an English theme," explains Mark. "They had lots of London scenes like Piccadilly Circus and the Haymarket and we had to dress up like Cockneys. It was embarrassing but quite funny, especially with all these dancers coming along and jiving around us at the end."

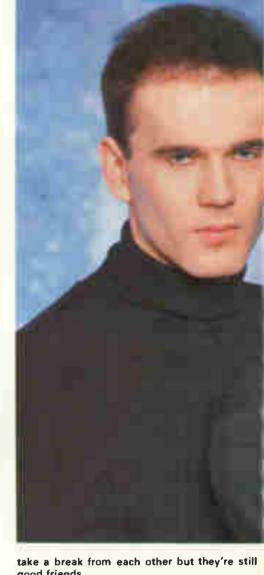
These days, international travel is second nature to Matt Bianco. They catch planes as often as you catch a bus. They hardly ever good friends.

"Danny's very tidy but Mark is your typical sort of man with various habits," says Basia, her eyes lifting skywards.

Mark's a bit of a wag as well. He told a German interviewer before a show that Danny wore women's underwear, and the rather serious German asked Danny politely if he'd given it up yet. Danny didn't know where to look. But there's a very sensitive side to Mark as well. He wrote 'More Than I Can Bear' the kind of ballad Uncle Phil Collins would be proud of.

"It's about a relationship," explains Mark. "It's about a guy who's just finished a relationship with a girl. He's very upset, and one day he sees her walking down the street with somebody else. It really tears him apart. He's in a great state of torture and anguish but there's nothing he can really do. When I wrote the song I put myself into a fantasy."

Strong material indeed, especially with Basia's vocals duelling with Mark's. It's also a brave change from the happy zappy style of past singles.



"We're a group with variety, so we want to bring that out through whatever we do," says Basia. "At the moment there does seem to be a strong return to people releasing ballads."

PART FROM Matt Bianco, Basia's been doing a spot of work helping David Cassidy. She had a phone call asking her to do some backing vocals on a song, so she popped along. She didn't actually get to meet the man himself but he phoned her up afterwards congratulating her. The two might meet up a bit later on.

Basia says that she thinks her voice is moré powerful than Sade's and among the people she'd most like to work with is Stevie Wonder.

"I'd love us to do a duet," she says. "I hope somebody tells him, I'd love to get a phone call from him."

Now, I don't know about you, but I reckon Basia's exquisitely chiselled looks deserve a lot more exposure (her cheek bones are even better than Chaka Khan's). I see her riding across the Russian Tundra in some sort of powerful dramatic film.

"Oh, I think I'd be a terrible actress," she says. "I'm just no good at that sort of thing at all. I like those sort of films though. I saw 'Doctor Zhivago' and it was very good."

Basia hopes that Matt Bianco will tour her native Poland someday. Before coming to the West she was in a leading band over there and it's incredible to think that just six years ago she could hardly speak a word of English.

She says there's a lot of propaganda against the system in Poland but it's not a bad place to live.

"You turn on the news or you even watch a film and the facts get distorted," she says. "People can actually buy cars in Poland and the queues for food aren't long all the time. The Polish people do have a lot of fun."

If Basia gets homesick then she cooks up a few traditional Polish dishes. One is a meat and cabbage concoction which takes three days to cook.

"Some of the food is pretty explosive," says Danny. Sometimes it's best if we don't stand too close to each other on stage after we've eaten."

