

A look at 1980

by Alan Christensen

As the new year of 1981 begins to wind its uncertain course, the time has now come when all amateur historians try and make some sense of the many and varied things that occurred in the year that has just passed. Different people will look back on 1980 with different conclusions. It was a good year for right-wingers, Polish workers, and Quebec federalists. It was not so good for liberal politicians, North American auto workers and Beatles' fans. Whatever might be supposed about 1980 in future history books, however, it cannot be said that 1980 was a boring year.

The cause of world peace was certainly not furthered by the events of the past year. Even as the year began there was a sense of foreboding as the Soviet Union entered the war in Afghanistan and the Iran hostage crisis entered its third month. The usual optimism that accompanies the beginning of a new decade did not seem to be present in 1980. This was born out as one event piled upon another

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the hostages, the Olympic boycott, Who shot JR?, constitution, energy, the Quebec referendum, western separation, national unity, Mt. St. Helens, the American elections, the financially troubled Chrysler Corporation

and pushed the world closer to the brink. In the United States a new militancy bore itself out in the renewal of draft registration and in the election of a militant right-winger as President. In the Soviet Union the death of Alexei Kosygin signaled the beginning of the inevitable change of leadership. Most of the leaders are now over seventy and will die or retire in

the next few years. The question is, who will replace the old guard? Will they be

replaced by a new more hard-line leadership? If so, what does this mean for east-west tensions? These questions remain to be answered in the next few years.

Canada, for once, had a very eventful year with Pierre Trudeau sweeping through the polls in one of the greatest comebacks in Canadian history (enough to rate him a place in Life Magazine's list of people who made comebacks in 1980). He followed this up by sweeping into Quebec with his host of gilded federalist

knights and doing battle with the heinous separatist dragon. Then, of course, there was the

whole question of the patriation of the Canadian Constitution, which all agreed was a fine idea. The question was, how does one go about it and what is to be done with it once it is patriated. The ensuing uproar over this turned staid, peaceful Canadian politicians into fire-breathing, breast-beating animals. For a short while Canadians were able to witness something resemb-

ling an Italian political debate.

It was also a year when former hippies become born-again stockbrokers; and anything Russian (vodka, Mishas and Ladas) became as un-touchable as the bubonic plague. The fate of a wounded Texas oil tycoon and the identity of his assailant kept millions of people riveted to their TV sets and caused millions of dollars to change hands in the form of side bets. 1980 also saw volcanoic dust become a marketable item, while Chrysler autos could barely be given away.

To end off this quickie review of 1980, perhaps it would be interesting to look at some of the memorable words, phrases and names that were heard often last year and which we are all sick of: the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the hostages, the Olympic boycott, Who shot JR?, constitution, energy, the Quebec referendum, western separation, national unity, Mt. St. Helens, the American elections, the financially troubled Chrysler Corporation. . . .

DALORAMA

T M I C H A E L M A N L E Y N
 O I N A S I T P A N E A I T O
 O T E N E W I Y Y R S N P D M
 R C O T E A H R E T C O H A I
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 S O E R A C E N O C E N S * E

<p>"A" Rock group _____ Band (12) Type of test (8)</p> <p>"C" Murder victim's body (13) Small telescope (11) Chinese city (6)</p> <p>"E" Poet (13) Nobleman's landholdings (7) Ambiguity or play on words (9) Lake (4)</p> <p>"G" Opposite of moron (6)</p> <p>"K" East German city (13)</p>	<p>"M" Jamaican politician (13) Change inches to centimetres (7) Nut gathering month (3)</p> <p>"N" Kill or slay in latin (10)</p> <p>"O" German chieftan who caused fall of West Roman Empire (7)</p> <p>"P" Original (9) Silversmith (10) Gruel of Barley, herbes or grapes (6) The Gazette needs (13) One trick pony (9)</p>	<p>"R" _____ of the Pink Panther (7)</p> <p>"S" Plant in Milkwort family (15) New Year's walking (7) Return to _____ (6)</p> <p>"T" 3-D (14) More than twelve (8)</p> <p>"Y" Once in Scottish (5)</p> <p>Quizzword clue: Quickly broken (19)</p> <p>Last answer: Christmas Eve</p>
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Sandinista Schmandinista

by Rob Cohn

Generally speaking I am known as somewhat of a fence-sitter when it comes to music. I like most things and if I don't like some I ignore it and it goes away.

Lately I have run across something so immense and useless that it just won't seem to go away.

I am referring to *Sandinista*, the latest release from the Clash. It wasn't enough that their previous release, *London Calling*, occupied two slabs of vinyl, *Sandinista* desecrates not two, but three.

36 Tracks, Big Deal!
 First off, let me make clear where I stand on the Clash. Their first LP was great, *Give 'em enough rope* was bearable, and I liked *London Calling* the first time that I heard it.
 I actually looked forward to

a three album set from the Clash. I would have been better off waiting for a Kiss anthology.

I really should have known that this was going to happen. The first example of the new material appeared over a month ago in the form of a single entitled *Bankrobber*. Beyond the worst song that the band had ever released, it just plain stunk.

Bankrobber doesn't appear on *Sandinista*, it appears on *Black Market Clash*, a compilation of B-sides and singles that were not released in North America. It is, however, indicative of the calibre of music that does appear. The second single, *The Call Up*, is another example and it does appear on the record.

The ultimate sacrilege occurs on the sixth and (thank God) last side. There appears

a new version of *Career Opportunities*. The vocals are performed by two young British children and the music is toned down to early Bay City Rollers.

This track particularly convinced me that I would rather spend an hour listening to Liberace doing Elton John than ever, ever, putting that record on my turntable again.

I quickly grabbed my copy of the first Clash LP (British pressing, don't you know?) Cued up the original *Career Opportunities*, turned my volume up to eleven and put all thought of my harrowing experience behind me.

Now that's music!
 Anyone wishing to buy a slightly used copy of *Sandinista* can contact me at the office. I figure that I can sell it. So does Phineas T. Barnum.