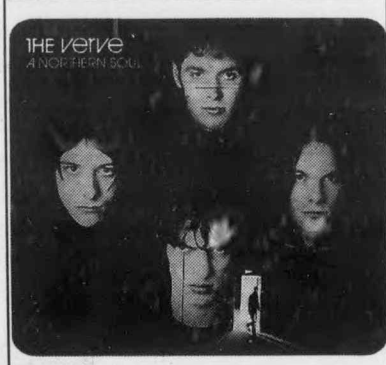


Goodbye To...

As always, there was a healthy number of deaths that robbed the entertainment world of some very talented people. And some not-so-talented ones too. So it is goodbye to:

Easy-E (the most right-wing member of NWA), Vivian Stanshall (rather eccentric singer from the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band), Bob Stinson (the singer from the Replacements until his excesses became too excessive), Shannon Hoon (singer from one-hit wonders Blind Melon), Jerry Garcia (which I suppose means the sixties are finally over), Sterling Morrison (founding member of the Velvet Underground), Dwayne Goettel (keyboard player from Skinny Puppy), Selena (Latin singing sensation), Ted Hawkins (blues busker who was just breaking through when he dies), and Peter Cook (humourist extraordinaire and occasional musician).



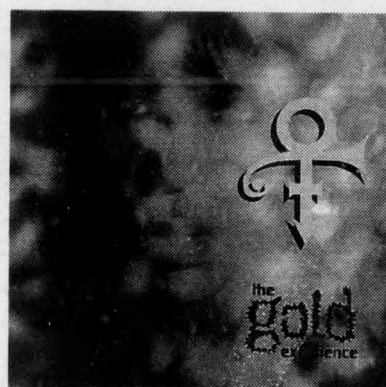
But it wasn't just death. Goodbyes are necessary to Richey from the Manic Street Preachers who disappeared back in February - no sign of him yet; just his abandoned car. The band will apparently release a new album in '96 though.

And one band that won't be releasing any new albums is Verve. Or the Verve to give them their newer title. Their final album, *A Northern Soul*, was among the year's finest, but the band decided to call it a day as the band was growing apart. A real shame.

The final goodbye is to Sarah Records; Sarah were the epitome of all things indie and twee since 1987. At the end of August, they said goodbye with a big party and their final release, *There And Back Again Lane* which compiles the best moments from the past nine years. It deserves a bit more attention, and it will receive it next week.

...And Welcome Back To

Some careers received a rather unexpected return to form in 1995 - Shane MacGowan put out *The Snake* with his new band, The Popes, but it might have well been with his old band, The Pogues. David Bowie reunited with Brian Eno for the wacky concept album, *Outside*. Nobody knew exactly what it all meant, but he can write songs again so who cares? Prince finally got to release *The Love Symbol Album*, and it was well worth the wait - his best album in years. The Rolling Stones even got some of their old songs out of the mothballs and rerecorded them for *Stripped*; they sounded better than they have in years (except for the horrid version of 'Like A Rolling Stone'). And then there was a new double album from a band who sounded an awful lot like Oasis called the Beatles. They probably won't get anywhere though.



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Reissues Of The Year

The inevitable mention of the Beatles. The first part of the Anthology was good, but the next part will probably be better still. The new song doesn't matter one little bit - what is more important is now we can see how everything came together (so to speak).

1995 was a sad year as the last of the Elvis Costello reissues on Rykodisc came out. But it did finish on the highest of high notes with *King Of America* and *Blood and Chocolate*. There has never been a better time to investigate the man.

An artist who never gets the respect she deserves is Kirsty MacColl. The many highlights of her solo career (for she is probably better known for the backing vocals she has done with the likes of Billy Bragg, the Pogues and many others) are collected together on *Galore*, an album that has something for everyone.

Concert Of The Year

It wasn't Green Day. Not even close.

Despite good performances by SIANspheric, Mystery Machine, Eric's Trip, The Doughboys, Die Cheerleader, Zumpano, Jann Arden, Moxy Fruvous, Hardship Post and a host of all other people, this honour goes to the five bands that performed at the Farmer's Market in one fun-packed evening. And they were the Monoxides, Pluto, Pansy Division, Hayden and Cub all of whom put on a damned good show. All those bands in one evening - I thought I had died and gone to Montreal.

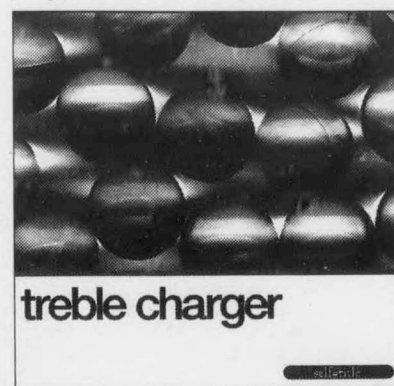
NOTE:

It's a good idea not to mention Billie Joe's "thing"

CHECK SPELLING

Trend Of The Year

1995 was the year that computers and music stopped simply seeing each other on an informal basis and actually tied the knot. Multimedia is the buzzword, and it isn't unusual to find an extra track that sounds like white noise if you have the misfortune to play it on your CD player. But if you stick it in your computer, you can get all kinds of extra goodies on the screen. All kinds of bands like Bob Dylan, Sugar, the Rolling Stones and the Cranberries have jumped on the bandwagon with mixed success. And that is why



Treble Charger get a special mention as they have come up with the best of the excursions into multimedia with their Screen Zine on the *Self/Title* CD. It had cartoons, fanzines, videos, music and biographies for over 30 Canadian bands. And Ratboy too.

too much white space

READ THIS ONE FIRST

THEN THIS ONE

why is all the text on the other page - BALANCE!!

AND THIS ONE LAST

Hopefully they will make the connection

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Not enough Pearl Jam jokes
2. Will people really read all this?

Annoying Trend Of The Year

A couple of things really pissed me off this year. Tribute albums, and cover version albums. What drives people to do such things? It could be that they are just too lazy to write their own songs. Or maybe they want to show their 'respect' for their mentors. Or maybe it is all for charity. But whatever the reason is, it cannot excuse the horrible tribute albums to John Lennon and Joy Division. Or Annie Lennox's, Jeff Healey's and Duran Duran's crimes against humanity.

Fortunately Elvis Costello's *Kojak Variety* did show that it is possible to do cover versions with some dignity. And there was all those seventies revival albums like *Spirit of '73* which was amusing for a couple of listens, then it all went horribly wrong. Please let it stop. Please.



make sure they understand that you liked Elvis Costello's album

Uncommercial Artist Of The Year

This award inevitably goes to everyone's favourite lunatic, Julian Cope. But this year, he did the unthinkable - he put out a commercial album. Or at least, commercial by his standards. Nevertheless, because he released *20 Mothers*, he has to relinquish this honour.

And who is going to step up to the podium and pick this up? Scott Walker, that's who. As a member of the Walker Brothers, he was famous in the sixties for such songs as 'The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Any More'. Then he had a solo career where he became increasingly obsessed with Jacques Brel, not only recording Brel's work, but also writing his material in the same style. It didn't sell. He disappeared from the music scene, turning up every now and again to make a weird but brilliant album that didn't sell, and then return to obscurity.

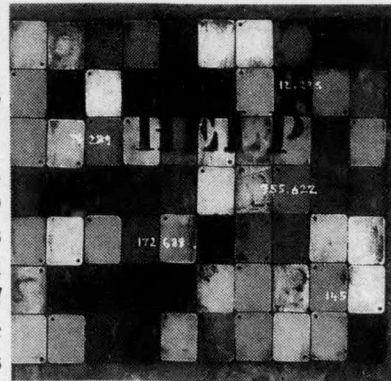


you should tell everyone that this is a picture of Scott Walker...

Well, it's been 11 years now, and Scott's new album, *Tilt*, is his weirdest yet. It is a peculiar combination of his operatic voice, bizarre lyrics, sparse instrumentation and the occasional burst of mechanical noise. Commercial suicide, but the most interesting thing I have heard all year.

Compilation Of The Year

Honourable mentions go to Narduar The Human Serviette for his *Skookum Chief Powered Teenage Zit Rock Angst*, simply because he dared to sell a full length CD and vinyl LP set for less than ten dollars. And then there was *Red Hot And Bothered* which was the indie world's contribution to AIDS charities; it also stuck all kinds of people onto one convenient easy-to-handle CD.



But the honours go the Warchild album *Help* - recorded in just one day, and in the shop seven days later. Not only did the money go to a good cause, it also had some very good music on it too (despite what Rolling Stone might have you think...) from the cream of the crop from the UK. Between you and me, it is worth getting just for the new Portishead song, but I do have these little biases where Portishead are involved.

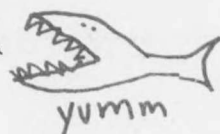
more sucking up about Portishead...

So that's it. A rather verbose look at 1995. Make sure you tune in every week for the best in all kinds of music thanks to that most holy of partnerships, Genrecide and *The Brunswickan*.

best joke in all article!

seems like an afterthought... (and lose the religious stuff!)

* NOT BAD FOR A FIRST DRAFT- REMEMBER TO TIDY THINGS UP *



maybe some Maple Leafs to increase the 'Canadian-ness'?

Year

live without; just a few is worthwhile again. This shortlist and they are (in

horn from Everything But of trinity to create eight of Starting with a heartbeat, smooths, calms and inspires on their album of the same a necessity.

song. Absolutely massive. ple from Stevie Wonder's to Coolio and L.V. It did cause of the advertising is though. Nevertheless, a wonderful song.

'A Girl Like You' by Edwyn Collins - Wow. An incredible return to form for the ex-Orange Juice leadman. A touch of Motown, a spot of distorted guitar and the most memorable of tunes. And a Sex Pistol on drums too. It was even a hit too, even in America.