

The good, the bad, and the oh so very tacky

Linton Kwesi Johnston — In Concert With The Dub Band
Rough Trade Records

review by Scott Gordon

Linton Kwesi Johnston is a reggae artist in the old mold. He is also very politically aware and makes no excuses for it. One may call him an activist, and one would be right.

His music, as mentioned above, is in the old style of reggae, the style of the sixties and early seventies. Johnston uses horns as an integral part of his music, as opposed to the recent influx of guitars and keyboards in reggae music. Johnston's music is well crafted and very appealing. You can dance to it and you can sit back and enjoy it.

Sitting back and listening, you can hear the lyrics. It is hard to avoid their message. Johnston sings of injustice and oppression. He also sings about being black in a white-dominated world. The message is at times hard to swallow and occasionally chilling, but it cannot be ignored. His voice and his lyrics are not to be ignored. Their intensity is punctuated and emphasized by the music.

Even without the music, Johnston's lyrics and voice bring the message home. Probably the best cut on the double live album, is "New Craas Massahkah." This is more a poem than a song, but the hypnotizing rhythm of Johnston's voice sweeps you up into the story of a fire at a party in London, England's New Cross area. It is haunting and highly charged with outrage and emotion. The police never fully investigated the incident, so it is not known whether it was an accident or a deliberate and successful attempt to kill several young black people while they were having a party.

"Five Nights of Bleeding" and "Dread Beat and Blood" are another two excellent tracks. The former is another poem/song that rattles a few cages.

Linton Kwesi Johnston's album is great. It is also moving, emotional, and danceable and listenable. This is an album for every reggae lover and every socially conscious person, real or imagined. It will make you sit up and take notice whether you like it or not.

The Flying Pickets
Virgin Records
EP

review by Scott Gordon

Some real winners here, let me tell ya. Sure.

One thing that strikes the record browser upon seeing this thingy, is the picture of the band on the front cover. They look like drag queen skinheads caught in their dressing room between costume changes. Throw in some really twisted drugs that they are coming down from, and you've got the picture.

But wait, there's more: THE MUSIC. If their appearance doesn't promote great feelings of revulsion, their music certainly will. For some bizarre unknown reason, The Flying Pickets are a doo-wop group. Not quite accapella, but definitely doo-wop. If that isn't enough, they insist on doing perfectly good songs in this manner, like "Summer In the City" and "Groovin'."

This stuff is bad.

I've heard dying hippos sing better. Tacky vocals. Tacky background vocals. Tacky 'musical' backing. Tacky clothes. Tacky album design. Enough said, thankfully.

Move a Groove/Dance and be Happy
Bolero Lava
Lava Rock Records

review by Scott Gordon

Happy, happy, happy! Dance music! Intelligence! Skill! And a whole bunch of other superlatives.

This second single outing from the Vancouver-based all-girl outfit, Bolero Lava is wonderful. These two songs cook, rock, boogie, whatever. If these tunes don't get you dancing, check for pennies on your eyes. You may be dead.

He's My Lover
Kim Richardson
A&M Records

review by Scott Gordon

In a word, Why? Why was this 'music' made? Why was it marketed? Why, why, why? This question may be answered when the Meaning of Life is discovered.



Bolero Lava you make me very happy



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the Alternative Countdown — the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. **Peace Corps** — Terror of History (Toxic Shock/Pollution Control)
2. **Billy Bragg** — Levi Stubb's Tears (GO/Polygram)
3. **Cottage Industry** — The Winter's Tale (Ikon -Canada)
4. **Generics** — Societal Hemorrhage (independent - Canada)
5. **Artless** — Artless (Placebo/Pollution Control)
6. **Fearless Iranians from Hell** — Self-Titled (Boner/Pollution Control)
7. **CIA** — CIA (Rude - US)
8. **Stepford Husbands** — Seems Like Years (Cryptovision - US)
9. **The Reactions** — Cracked Marbles (Homestead/Dutch East India Trading)
10. **The Dundrells** — Nothing On TV (independent - Canada)

Singles, EP's & Tapes

1. **Various Artists** — It Came From Canada, Volume 2 (OG-Canada)*
2. **The Woodentops** — Giant (Rough Trade-US)
3. **Elvis Costello** — Blood and Chocolate (CBS)
4. **The Gruesomes** — Tyrants of Teen Trash (OG -Canada)*
5. **Spirit of the West** — Tripping Up The Stairs (Stony Plain/RCA)
6. **Terence Blanchard & Donald Harrison** — Nascence (CBS)
7. **Hunters and Collectors** — Human Frailty (IRS/MCA)
8. **David Sylvian** — Gone To Earth (Virgin/Polygram)
9. **The Untouchables** — Dance Party (Stiff/MCA)
10. **Gene Loves Jazabel** — Discover (Vertigo/Polygram)



MAYORAL DEBATE

"The Main Event"

Confirmed:

OLSEN vs. DECORE

other candidates invited.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 8th
WHERE: SUB Theatre
TIME: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
PRICE: FREE

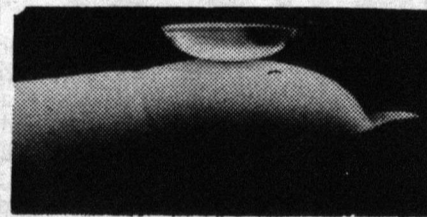
*Come and ask your toughest question
Poll to be taken after debate*

SPONSORED BY: External Affairs Office
and the External Affairs Board

CAMPUS EYE CENTRE

BACK TO THE BOOKS SALE

NEW
PROLONGED
WEAR
CONTACTS
\$219.00
per pair



REGULAR
SOFT
CONTACTS
2 pair
\$179.00

FASHION EYEWEAR

COMPLETE EYEGLASSES
WITH SINGLE VISION LENSES PRICED
FROM \$49.95

ALL REGULAR STOCK FASHION FRAMES
20% OFF REGULAR PRICE

EYE EXAMINATIONS ARRANGED

Go back to your studies in top quality
eyeglasses or contacts from your on campus
specialist.

CAMPUS EYE CENTRE
11151 - 87 Ave. 432-1372