

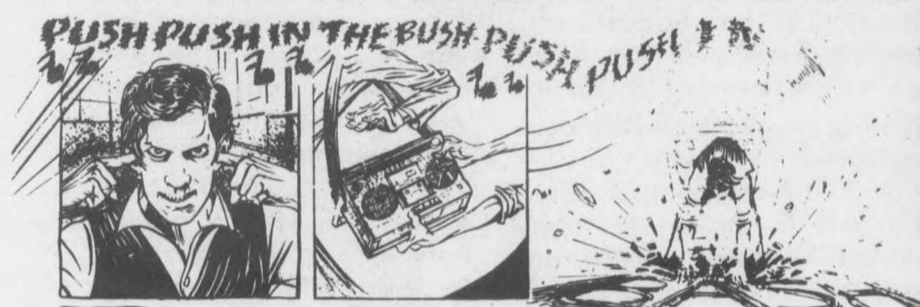
"The INCREDIBLY STRANGE CREATURES WHO STOPPED LIVING AND BECAME MIXED-UP ZOMBIES"

ENTERTAINMENT

Erm... well actually, its really another

GRAPHIC BY PETER KUPER

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THE SMITHS: RANK (ROUGH TRADE/SIRE RECORD)

"...Hate largely. This will sound almost unpleasant, but distaste for normality. I've never really liked normal people or normal situations..." (Morrissey on what motivates him.)

In September of 1987, lead singer Morrissey of THE SMITHS announced that STRANGWAYS, HERE WE COME would be the band's last album. This autumn has however seen the release of RANK, a live collection of THE SMITHS at their peak, recorded at The National Ballroom in London, 1986. The album covers a good selection of the best SMITHS material from 1984-1986. One notable absence is "Shoplifters of the World, Unite"; almost every other major track from the period is covered.

THE SMITHS formed in 1982. Early singles like "Hand in Glove" and "This Charming Man" quickly brought the group to cult status. It was not until 1984, with the first LP THE SMITHS which brought them instant acclaim, that they found some commercial success. Since then, only the occa-

sional single such as "Panic" or "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now" has hit - others like "Bigmouth Strikes Again" and "Shakespeare's Sister" were total misfires, commercially speaking. Despite their independant status, THE SMITHS have consistantly sold well; MEAT IS MURDER (1985) and THE QUEEN IS DEAD (1986) especially so. RANK is obviously an attempt by Rough Trade Records to once again cash in on the salability and appeal of the band.

(Note to trivia buffs: the excerpt at the beginning of THE QUEEN IS DEAD is "Take me back to dear old blighty" lifted from the movie THE L-SHAPED ROOM, performed by Sicilly Courtenidge. Also, 'Strangeways' is a gothic 'House of Correction' in Manchester. Morrissey recently stated in an interview: "I feel at this point that almost anything absurd can happen, and if I ended up in Strangeways, I wouldn't be at all surprised.")

ANDREA NOLAN



The lads from Skinny Puppy not looking very scary at all really.

SKINNY PUPPY Vivisectvi (Nettwerk Records)

Slap on the headphones and it's not long before the whole world takes on a whole new dimension of seductive terror. There you are, pursued across the glowing rubble of a Northern wasteland: hot on your butt, by the slavering rabid fiends of a process of evolution that has been hitherto only alluded to in the most tortured of scabrous minds. Scary? I'm telling you children, this is the stuff that imploding organs are made of. The cries of agony that punctuated this soundtrack of sputtering elec-

tronic corruption are proof positive that the latest demonic manifestation of the half-human half-crazed-hell-spawn with-a-conscience (phew!) that are Skinny Puppy have lured you into impregnating your appliance with a transcendental submer-sion of beautiful vileness.

"It's your friend Stella... don't you recognise me?" whispers a trapped soul just before she explodes into a writhing maelstrom of bristling insectoid legs that liberally coats the furniture with a self-

replicating green slime before ripping down the concrete with a raw and bleeding maw.

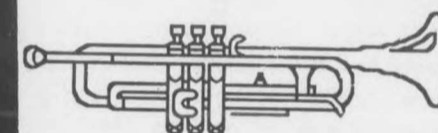
That said, you know, it's almost accessible. Ogre et al have this time managed to trap a flock of smashed up dance riffs under a tarpaulin, doped them up to the quavers and giggle insanely as they struggle and rip at their containment with brutal desperation.

The evil f**ks that are using biochemical warfare to decimate villagers in the Middle East are commendably given a slashing in VX GAS ATTACK. If there is a class of war mongering shit that deserve being subjected to death by razor and napalm, it is these true monsters. The puppies share our barest sentiments.

Musically? Well you know what it sounds like when you suddenly surprise the Valkyrie Select XI and the entire Detroit robotics crew frolicking about with five thousand volts of raw power and a huge vat of Mayonnaise in your kitchen? It's about fifty times better.

One of the records of 1988.

STEVE GRIFFITHS



ROBERT PALMER HEAVY NOVA EMI Manhattan Records

Hi! I'm new. As a premiering commentator I considered it appropriate to open in such an intricate, mind-stimulating manner.

It has been brought to my attention that Robert Palmer has been given no media coverage yet in the Bruns (yeah, I know, it shocked me too), so I took it upon myself to do so as my first article. Any objections? I thought not. This album deserves recognition! It is a self-produced album for Palmer, which is a chore of its own while still concentrating on creativity. As controversial a statement as it may be, I dare say that Mr. Palmer (and I do mean 'Mr.') is one of the most diverse musicians on the rock scene since the Beatles.

What? Who said that? I see a Sgt. Pepper fan choking on his crispies at the breakfast table! I'll back this up with the fact that HEAVY NOVA is to-the-brim with sounds of reggae, African, jazz, but yet, good rhythm guitar. One

continued on page 12

Filmed in **TERRORAMA**