

# BRUM BEAT

THE MIDLANDS ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

NUMBER 134

FEBRUARY 1992

## DIVINE CELIBACY



*The MONEYGODS present the  
Perfect Case to Paul Flowers*

## THE COWBOY JUNKIES

*Mike Davies Takes a Hit*

WIN **TERMINATOR 2** VIDEOS

WIN 3 DAYS OF DIGITAL 24 TRACK RECORDING  
AT REVOLVER RECORDING STUDIOS!!

PLUS NEWS ● VIEWS ● REVIEWS  
AND THE RETURN OF LORD HAW HAW



## STEVE FORBERT The American In Me (Geffen)

Not quite the second coming of Forbert some reviews would have you believe and that slightly chewy-cheeked, catarrhish voice still needs settling into with each hearing. However, the folkie rockers definitely in good form, whether strumming an acoustic guitar, wheezing a harmonica or belting out some blue collar rock'n'roll (though the belting 'Rock While I Can' is the least convincing track) to songs about America's ever increasing troubled times. 'New Working Day', 'Responsibility', 'Born Too Late' and the title track acknowledge the working man's times are a changing and not for the better, but he still manages to colour it with the matter of fact but at least partly encouraging bright sieder of 'You Cannot Win 'Em All'. Now if they could get him on the Mellencamp tour...

Mike Davies

## TOO MANY COOKS Food Fight (A&M)

The Cooks are a Canadian duo that are unlikely (sadly and despite a mention of Robin Hood in the track 'Mad') to dominate the coming summer's chart! In fact (again sadly) they are more likely to be on a direct route to the proverbial cut out bin (Aside: whatever happened to them?) and taking the fast lane. Too Many Cooks deserve better. They're a classy rock act able to turn their collective hand to all aspects of the genre with equal aplomb. They can



rock with spitting guitars, harmonise on slow burn pop rockers and write a damn good tune too.

This is a genuinely wonderful album that most of you will never hear, but that, friends, is your loss. It needn't be ...

Steve Morris

## RESQUE Life's A Bonus (Musidisc)

Raspberries, Shoes, Segarini, Monkees, Stories, Wackers, Beatles, La's, Rutles ... Resque, keepers of the faith.

The faith of tunes, enthusiastic harmonies, acoustic rhythm guitars, glossy clean shaking hair.

The olympic torch of pop is in Resque's hand for the next few laps. Keep it burning chaps.

Steve Morris

## LINDA RONSTADT Mas Canciones (Elektra)

Having re-established her commercial credentials with the Aaron Neville featuring and rather fine 'Cry Like A Rainstorm' album, Ronstadt rounds up brothers Mike and Pete to revel in the family's Mexican music heritage.

That's fine up to a point; the performances are top notch, drip with a studied authenticity and glow with respect.

However they fail to live as anything more than musty

museum pieces. Ronstadt has every right to sing the music but I'm surprised that a vocalist of her intelligence hasn't connected it to the present. Los Lobos, for example, are able to show that not only does it live and breath but that it parties.

Steve Morris

## CHAGALL GUEVARA Chagall Guevara (MCA)

Chagall Guevara's debut album is one of rock's best kept secrets. Possibly embarrassed by the riches its rightful success would bring, the record company instead chose to sneak it into a few selected shops as 91 faded.

What you have been kept from, for your own good, is one of the finest rock bands to emerge in many a moon. They're classic in every respect; lyrically bright, harmoniously tuneful and razor edged. Their soaring harmonies wrap around a frontman with a touch of John Hiatt in his larynx and the guitars ring, snarl and power-chord as they should.

But they are not simply revivalists with hormone treatment; the rock cocktail they shake is not one of reverence but one of 'we can do it better.' The opener, 'Murder In The Big House', is INXS with a foot on the throttle rather than an eye on the big chance, whilst the brass arrangement for 'Play God' is disorienting instead of soul faithful.

Put simply, this is a peach of an album that promises long term greatness.

You owe it to yourself to own this, really!

Steve Morris

# ARTHUR WOOD



## TORI AMOS

Second month running, the mega end of the live acoustic market locally, seems to be maintaining a state of severe non-activity. Even further on, all that can be said, is that there are a few ghosts of hope on the horizon.

If you've got the wheels and the urge for going, *Everything But The Girl*, supported by Darden's pal *Boo Hewerdine*, are at the University of Warwick Arts Centre in Coventry on Monday 10th Feb. Ben and Tracey's latest action packed excursion being billed as a series of acoustic concerts. So there.

One week earlier at Hanley Arts Centre, *Tori Amos* undertakes the second (and probably nearest to Birmingham) date of her first UK tour. And here comes the voice of dissent once more. Considering the column miles of approval which those songs from the canyons of her mind have been reaping far and wide of late, I personally can't see what the fuss is about. Next year's crop of 'Best of...' selections will be the test. The real fallacy isn't what's on the rear face of the CD box, it's what's inside! Anyone remember March 18th 1967? ('No', choruses the entire readership of Brum Beat in anguished harmony! Puzzled Ed.)

*'Having thought they found a girl with really great songs, what's so believable about really amazing album reviews! And the gullible ride on.'*

The highlight locally is on Tuesday February 18th, which sees an amalgam of new local outfit, Good News and Oxford based Border Radio (aka Bob Moore,

the much missed Breedon / Border Cafe architect) presenting no less a quartet than Messrs *Butch Hancock*, *Jimmie Dale Gilmore*, *Jesse Taylor* and *Bradley Kopp*. It happens at the old roots landmark, The Junction in Harborne's High Street. If I don't catch those Texas Boys while they're here, doubtless I'll stumble across them at the Kerrville Festival in Texas come springtime. (Lucky you! Ed)

Which kind of brings us neatly to another Kerrville regular, *Tom Russell*. Concurrent with confirmation of a mid March visit to the UK, by the full Tom Russell Band, Topic Records have now in stock his latest album, 'Hurricane Season' (Philo). It's the first in a series of forthcoming Russell releases, since a 16 track compilation of material from Tom's five albums to date, including 'Hurricane Season', will be released by our chums at Round Tower Records to coincide with the tour.

And finally, around the local folk clubs, the forthcoming month brings: Sat 1st - *The Companions of the Rosy Hour* (Red Lion, Kings Heath); Fri 7th - *Stanley Accrington* (Woodman, Kingswinford), *Christine Kydd* (Market Tavern, Moseley Street); Sat 8th *Trevor Burton - Solo!* (Red Lion); Fri 14th - *Johnny Handle* (Woodman), *Brian Peters* (Market Tavern); Sat 15th - *You Slosh* (Red Lion); Fri 21st - 21st Anniversary Special with the *Deighton Family* (Woodman), *Singers Night* (Market Tavern); Sat 22nd - *Allan Taylor* (Red Lion); Fri 28th - *Singers Night* (Woodman), *Bob Bray & Jon Scaife* (Market Tavern); Sat 29th - *The Backroom Boys* (Red Lion).



CHAGALL GUEVARA