

ELVIS COSTELLO

ALMOST BLUE

Why don't you love me (like you used to do)/ Sweet dreams / Success /
I'm your toy / Tonight the bottle let me down / Brown to blue / Good
year for the roses / **SITTIN'** and thinkin'/ Colour of the blues/ Too
far gone/ Honey hush/ How much I l~~ie~~ed.

(F-Beat ~~XXLP~~13)

I've lived with this album for quite a few days now, almost
a week infact, and I still can't make up my mind about it.

Since the album's release, Elvis has been interviewed by
Grace Jones' best friend, had a South Bank Show all to himself; but,
I keep asking myself, ~~Are~~ his motives for making this album genuine?


In the past, talking to the press was never his favourite
occupation,(not that he gave much away to Harty). There isn't one of
his songs on this album, but I don't think that means he has dried up
as a songwriter. Country is a specialised song-writing genre, anyway.

There is no doubt that it took a large measure of courage
to make this album. The backing by the Attractions and guest Doobie
John McFee is impeccable. At least Elvis didn't fall into the trap of
using Nashville session players. Billy Sherrill has added a string here,
and a Nashville Edition/^{cherus}there, but the buck stops at the Costello drone.

The decision which really makes or breaks the success of
this album is whether Elvis is singing from the heart or from the wallet.

I would like to think it is the former. 'Good year for the
roses' made the top10,so it is obvious that he has carried some of his
old fans with him,as well as converting some new ones. His career
appeared to be flagging somewhat, after the release of his previous album.

I'm afraid I'm going to sit on the fence a little longer
with this one. Why, oh why, did he have to call 'Hot Burrito #1'
Written by, *by the stupid title 'I'm your toy'.*


Arthur Wood.