

# WHAT HAPPENS TO

**MIFFED** by the Melody Maker? Fed up with The Face? Nonplussed by the NME? Well why not start your own music paper then? After you've been running it for a while you'll be able to get a job in the music press - the majority of new hacks taken on by the nationals these days started off as fanzine editors.

Bedroom journalism is what it's all about. All you need to start your mag is a typewriter (or legible handwriting), access to some or other reproduction device, and an axe to grind. It's great fun, people send you tapes, even records, other mags, and you get into gigs for nothing. The only thing you won't be able to do is make a lot of money, but who cares, eh? you'll be able to appoint your mates as subordinates and order them round. Who needs money when you've got power?

It all began with the great punkquake of 1976/77 as a revolt against the bloated and self-important music press. Most have gone the way of all paper since then, and deservedly so in the case of many, but the scene is still alive and if not exactly well is a sight better than might reasonably be expected. From the dizzy heights of Venue's own typeset mega-circulation, I took a patronising look at some of the zines available in this area...

## ■ cATCH 22

(Issue 10, A5, 32 Pages. Available from Forever People or Virgin Records, Bristol or write to Kevin 22, 2nd Floor, 124 Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7JX enclosing 25p & SAE)

This is mainly a punkzine, but don't let that put you off, as it's also extremely funny and crammed with all sorts of information of varying usefulness. This ish, the "Summer of '83 Mega-Issue" includes features on THE TEMPEST, LE LU/LU'S and a truly brain-shattering article on the punk scene in - wait for it - Yugoslavia. Popular Yugoslav bands include OTROCI SOCIALIZMA (Kids of Socialism), ELEKTRICNI ORGAZM (no prizes) and CAO PICKE, and if you speak Serbo-Croat you'll realise why no translation of the latter name will ever appear in this family magazine. You'll just have to slake your curiosity by buying a copy of C22. "Worth 25p of anyone's money" (The Underground).

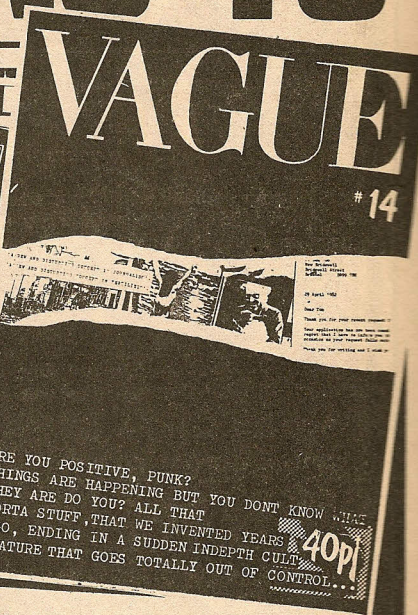
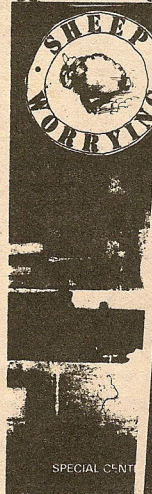
(Issue 14, A4, 36 Pages. Available from Forever People and Fyrl Marx, Bristol, or write to 'Butcombe', Castle Street, Mere, Wilts, BA12 6JF. 40p)

Oh come on, you must have heard of this one - it was based in Bath until recently, and is in any case the punkzine demi-monde's answer to 'The Times'. If anyone could claim the title of fanzine guru, it would be Tom Vague, the editor of this particular boot to the establishment ero'n. which has been the inspiration of probably hundreds of inferior imitations throughout the

World. This issue features pages and pages of SOUTHERN (as was) DEATH CULT, and articles attacking drugs, the Falklands war, the concept of work and most other fanzines. Vague is intelligent, provocative and uncompromising, and its stylishness makes it easy to understand why it features so prominently in the fanzine top tens. On the other hand, its frequent lapses into bitterness, its lack of real humour, and the self-indulgent posturings of the editor can be rather irritating. Love it or hate it.

# VAGUE

39 OCTOBER



## elephant WEEKly

(A4, 12 Pages, 20p. Available from Forever People, or 48 Springfield Avenue, Mangotsfield, Bristol B S17 3BL)

This is issue 1 of a new "non-weekly punkzine". Riot City Special features an interview with SIMON EDWARDS and a Riot City discograph. Also a DISCHORD interview - a pretty standard punkzine Q & A session, also a feature on Bristol punk band, ANNIHILATION.

"Elephant Weekly" is just like every other punk fanzine, and if anything is even more tacky and sloppy than most. Much of it is handwritten, and this, along with a profusion of gonzo picture montage tends to waste a good deal of space. All the usual in-jokes as well. But there again, it's for punks only, and was never aimed at the likes of us sophisticated and urbane Venue readers. There are some funny bits ("show us yer Metro and win a bum", and it's hard to dislike it. I think 'unpretentious' is the word. Me? I never touch anything that doesn't have big words in it. Give me "Vague" any day.