

# CHEQUE MATE

Rory Gallagher never carries a cheque book. "I don't approve of the whole business of cheques and high living," he says. "I'd rather have the cash in my pocket, and pay as I go. After all, the only things I ever buy are guitar strings or a pint of beer."

"And I don't need a cheque book for those, do I?"

Rory formed his first skiffle group in Cork when he was just nine. It was called—wait for it—**RORY GALLAGHER'S SKIFFLE GROUP**.

Wasn't that rather egotistical, I asked him. "Not at all," he replied in broad Irish. "It was my group!"

Overend Watts of Mott the Hoople has a favourite shop. It's in the Kensington Market, Kensington High Street in London.

But it's not what you might think: not a boutique or a record shop.

It's something quite unique—a chess shop. It sells chess sets of all ages, shapes, sizes and designs, from many countries. Plus books, old prints, drawings and paintings.

Everything in it is connected with chess, which has been Overend's favourite game since he was 12.

"In ten years' time, I'd quite like to be running a shop of my own," he says. "It could be a music shop or a guitar shop... but I'd rather it was a chess shop."



Overend with lead singer Ian Hunter



## LOVE ME...

There's a new twosome on the scene: Richard Barnes and Lizzy. Before you all get excited I'd like to point out that Lizzy is his golden retriever! Lovely, isn't she?

## FOR MEN ONLY...

If Middle of the Road's Sally Carr has a lot of poise these days, it's thanks to film star Sophia Loren.

"We met Sophia while we were filming in Italy," she told me. "We'd been feeling whacked—because we'd had to get up at five o'clock every morning! But meeting her made us cheer up, because we all think she's great. We were absolutely thrilled when she asked if we'd back her on her recording of 'The Priest's Wife,' and agreed at once."

"As we came out of the studios, Sophia said to me, 'Lift your head up—smile—look the world in the eye, otherwise people will think the session went badly. Always do that, whether performing or just walking in public. Look successful and it'll do a lot to make you successful.'"



## POP GOSSIP

### the ed's letter

This is my time of the year, folks. Being Scots, I can do just about anything at New Year and most people will only shrug and murmur. "Well, what do you expect from a Scotsman at Hogmanay?"

I can smile brightly and wish one and all a cheerful good morning, compliment the tea lady on the morning's brew, not raise an eyebrow at Emil's expense sheet for the interview he did with a Chinese elephant (looking forward to reading that feature)—in short I can completely change my character and get away with it.

Tomorrow's another day, though—back to the grindstone for everyone, except me, of course.

Hope one of your resolutions will be "I must read Jackie every week."

The best to you all in the coming year.

Cheers,  
The Ed

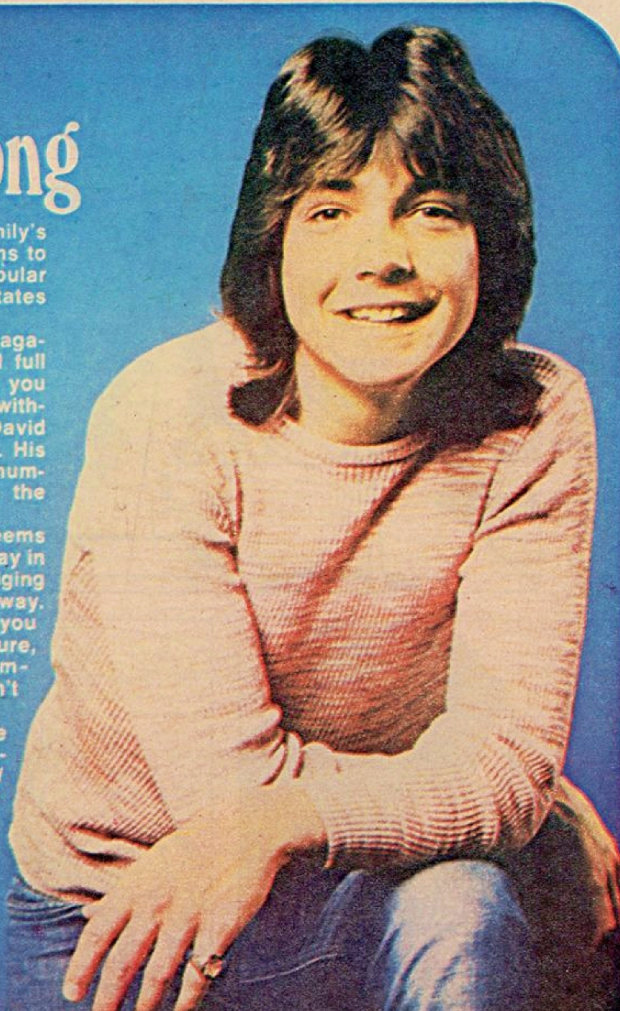
## Hopalong

The Partridge Family's David Cassidy seems to be the most popular young star in the States at the moment.

American teen-magazines are crammed full of information, and you can't turn a page without a picture of David grinning out at you. His fan club is said to number somewhere in the region of 200,000.

His popularity seems to increase by the day in this country—judging by your letters, anyway. So just to keep you going here's a picture, and a piece of information you simply can't live without...

David's favourite breakfast drink consists of: tea and coffee, with milk and sugar. Together in the one cup!



## Guitar Man

Steve Howe of Yes has an old Gibson Switchmaker guitar, which he bought from Mick Grabham of Cochise.

"That was the type of guitar that Elvis Presley used to play years ago," says Steve. "The trouble is that you can't get parts and fittings for them in this country."

"When we were in America, I found one shop that had a stock of old parts from years back—you can't get the model nowadays. I spent £50 getting every little part I could, so that I'll always be able to mend it if anything goes wrong in future."

## RING THE CHANGES!

On his left hand Tony Blackburn wears a ring with an Edward VII sovereign mounted on it, which he bought in 1964 for "about £30". He doesn't know the date because it's hidden by the mounting.

On his right hand Tony has a gold signet ring which his parents gave him on his 21st. Also a diamond ring he bought in Bournemouth four years ago for a sum he's keeping to himself!

Tony regards his Edward VII ring as his lucky one. "But I didn't think so at first," he told me. "Soon after I'd bought it, our Radio Caroline 'pirate' ship ran aground!"