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Welcome back!

Oh, wot a lot we got! Want to win a signed Donny album? Worried about being popular? Dotty about David Bowie? Need a new dress and like to see what's just right for summer? Well, they're all here inside! We've also a *sad* little piece on David Cassidy we think you ought to read and a lovely dress to make if you're liable to be a bridesmaid soon. I've probably forgotten all the rest but after all the fun is in the finding out! Happy searching!

Dr. Easler



David
Bowie
bows in on
page 16...

Why so sad?
David's secret
sorrows on
page 24



SHADOWS

HOT POP GOSSIP FROM THE U.K. TEEN WORLD

Stand by for the JAMES BOYS, Bradley Palmer aged twelve - and his brother Stewart, who's a year younger. They have a very catchy debut disc on the Penny Farthing label titled 'Over And Over' and I figure it needs only a gentle nudge from Melanie's resident d.j. Tony Blackburn to send it soaring high into the charts.

Normally it's a waste of time even thinking about British rivals to the Osmonds, Jacksons and David Cassidy, but I know I'm not alone in seeing an enormous potential in good-looking Brad, a boy oozing with confidence and already having to fight off the girls in his school playground at Ilford, Essex. Stewart, shy and a more than competent clarinetist, is likely to win over a few fluttering feminine hearts too.

Lively cockney JOE BROWN has a problem. He's about to have a hit with his haunting new ballad, 'Hey Mama'. That's a problem? "But the thing is," Joe explains, "I'm just getting my group Brown's Home Brew off the ground and our music is country-rock.

"I can see what's going to happen. The fans will come and see the group expecting to hear me

singing 'Hey Mama'. They'll be disappointed because I won't. These days I've got to have two heads, one for the mums and dads who love all the old hits and comedy routines, and another for the youngsters who are into the group's new sounds." I know some singers who would give their right tonsil to have Joe's problem!

Talking to Junior Choice guv'nor ED STEWART the other day. He lives in a lovely little flat in Harley Street, just a stereo blast from 'the office', Broadcasting House. Ed was telling me about his ideal pad.

"It would be a big rambling house with a river at the back so I could fish and row up and down to the nearest pub, which ideally shouldn't be more than fifty yards away. There should be a golf course across the road so I could nip back for a cuppa between holes, a wife in the kitchen and a whole pack of kids screaming and yelling their heads off in the garden." Sounds great Ed, hope the wish comes true.

While ELTON JOHN comes in for the sort of fan attention more usually reserved for David Cassidy, he modestly says: "I don't really consider myself established. I mean,"

he said in a recent interview, "if I don't make an album for another year, there's always someone ready to come up and step into my shoes and take over. If I took a long time off, people would forget about me." There is a line usually spun by press agents about their artists that runs: "He (or she) hasn't changed one bit since it all started happening." In most cases, pop stars have changed a great deal but I'm happy to report Elton John remains one of the humblest, nicest and most down to earth people you could wish to meet. Now, Elton's press agent, about that interview...

You've heard that nasty word 'inflation'? Well ask your mum next time she comes back from the shops. Price rises are even hitting our bands. I remember a few years back AMEN CORNER moaning about their £35 weekly dry cleaning bill. Now ARGENT have said that it costs about £1,600 a month to keep them on the road. Then there's that very good harmony group DESIGN. They recalled the time they were turning down bookings because they couldn't afford the fares or decent stage clothes. No, it's not all flash cars and Gold Discs!

I guess some of you will be too young ever to have seen the SHADOWS perform. They were knocked for their sappy little dance routines which never varied for years but as musicians they were supreme, winning the Best Instrumental Group title in poll after poll. Now there's every chance that they might reform - with John Farrar replacing John Rostill on bass guitar - for one or two dates.

As I reported a couple of weeks back, PAUL SIMON has been recording in London. Now I hear that his one time partner Art Garfunkel will have his first solo album issue at the same time as the Simon collection. Garfunkel includes songs by notable contemporary writers like Carole King, Randy Newman, Jim Webb and Johnny Nash. Yes, you've guessed. There's not a single Simon track on the LP.

Short 'uns: Rolling Stones willing to

pay up to £100,000 for pad large enough to house their mobile studio... very few Radio 1 jocks interested in leaving Beeb for legal commercial radio... when are soccer teams going to stop making discs and get back to playing attractive football?... Humble P... fighting hard for best live group in the world title... rumours growing stronger of possible Beatle re-union... Lynsey de Paul not exactly the easiest person to get hold of, but very easy to get along with... watch out for new group Taggett... Allan Clarke not finding solo the easiest thing in the world...



ED STEWART



THE JAMES BOYS