

## in brief

**THE EFFECT** of the energy crisis on the music industry will be discussed at length on BBC2's Money Programme this Friday (7.30). In the studio will be Nat Joseph of Transatlantic Records, John Reid of EMI and Martin Davies of United Artists. The programme will look at the dramatic drop in the number of albums being pressed and probe the shortage of essential raw materials such as vinyl and cardboard, as well as the reduction in capacity caused by the three-day week.

**GREENSLADE** will be special guests at Osibisa's Rainbow concert this Friday. The band sets off on a European tour next month following dates at Leeds University (Jan 26) and Aylesbury (Feb 2).

**THE INCREDIBLE** String Band set off on a 10-date tour of Britain in February before releasing their next album, *Hard Rope and Silken Twine*, on February 22. Currently in Europe, the band aim to play venues missed out by their massive 40-date tour last Autumn. Dates: Central Hall Chatham (Feb 10), Eastbourne Congress Hall (11), Leicester University (12), Chichester Festival Theatre (14), Brunel University (15), Rochdale Champress Hall (16), Middlesbrough Town Hall (17), Keele University (19), and Drury Lane Theatre Royal (23).

**QUEEN** set off for Australia this week after completing their next album and single due for release in March. The band are due to make two appearances at a three day open air festival in Melbourne.

**ELLIS** have broken up and founder member, Steve Ellis and rhythm guitarist Alan Callan have started working together writing material for a new album. The duo have also signed a deal with Fluid Management and will be forming a new band in a few months time under a different name.

**AMERICAN** gospelers, The Staple Singers, make their British concert debut this Friday at London's Festival Hall. Their latest single, *Respect Yourself*, was released on Stax last week.

**FOLK** singer, Ralph McTell, who has been busy putting down tracks for his new album, *Take It Easy*, started his longest ever tour of Britain this week.

The six-week tour taking in 26 venues, sees him at the Civic Hall, Barrow on Saturday. His other gigs are Civic Theatre, Darlington (Jan 27), Royal Albert Hall, London (Jan 30), Boston Hall, Bristol (Feb 1), Dome, Brighton (Feb 2), Theatre Royal, Norwich (Feb 3), Marlboro Theatre, Canterbury (Feb 4), City Hall, Newcastle (Feb 7), Apollo Centre, Glasgow (Feb 8), Usher Hall, Edinburgh (Feb 9), Guildhall, Preston (Feb 10), Town Hall, Birmingham (Feb 11), De Montfort Hall, Leicester (Feb 13), Cliffs Pavilion, Southend (Feb 15), Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool (Feb 17), City Hall, Hull (Feb 19), Town Hall, Leeds (Feb 22), Central Hall, Chatham (Feb 23), New Theatre, Cardiff (Feb 24), Town Hall, Oxford (Feb 25), Fairfield Halls, Croydon (Feb 28), City Hall, St Albans (Mar 2), Theatre Royal, York (Mar 3).

## Billion dollar babes

**THE OSMONDS** this week announce the signing of a contract guaranteed to bring them one million dollars a year over the next four years.

The deal, with the new Superstar theatre of the Las Vegas Tropicana Hotel, calls for the boys to appear for a maximum of eight weeks a year for the next four years. Their first engagement will be for three weeks from July 12-Aug. 1. The Osmonds spend this month recording tracks for a new

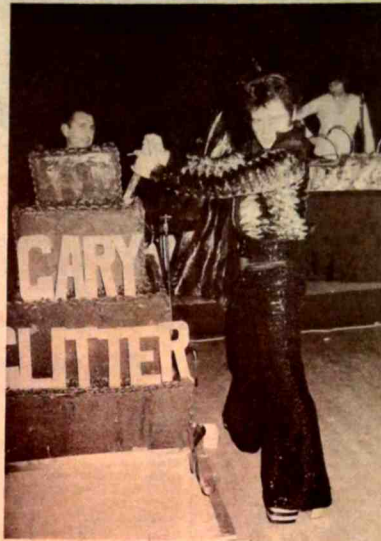
album at their own brand new studios in Utah, and Marie is back in Nashville recording a follow-up single to *Paper Roses*.

Meanwhile Donny Osmond has earned himself a gold disc for *A Time For Us* album sales in this country while younger brother Jimmy sees a week's delay in the release of his new single, *I'm Going To Knock On Your Door*, which now comes out on February 8.

## It's my party...

**IT'S** a big, big cake for a big, big star. Gary Glitter makes the initial cut at a rather lavish party thrown by Bell Records at a posh Park Lane hotel to mark Gary's second anniversary with the company and his record sales of over a million.

Helping Gary along with the celebrations were those men from the Beeb... Dave Lee Travis, Bob Harris, Johnnie Walker, David Hamilton, and Alan Freeman complete with glitter outfit. Suzi Quatro and footballer Bobby Moore were also there plus a host of executives, producers and managers.



## Hudson-Ford burned

**THE** new Hudson-Ford single, *Burn Baby Burn* due for release in the UK on Friday (Jan 25) has run into problems about its simultaneous release in the States.



Already three Chicago radio stations have banned the record because of its title and supposedly offensive lyrics. A spokesman for the band said that *Burn Baby Burn* was "a slogan used by the Chicago rioters at the Democratic Party convention in 1968."

The matter has been handed over to the Federal Commu-

nication Commission who govern the release of records in the States. John Ford told R.M.: "The record has no political meaning whatsoever, it's about pollution and over population problems."

Meanwhile Hudson-Ford start an 18-gig British tour at Bristol Polytechnic on February 1. Additional dates have yet to be announced.

## Cody for Wembley

**THE** SIXTH International Festival of Country Music is being held at the Empire Pool, Wembley, over Easter weekend - April 13 and 14.

Artists due to appear are Bill Anderson, Commander Cody and The Planet Men, Tompall Glaser, The Hillsiders, Wanda Jackson, George Jones, Logan and The Blue Boys, Bill Monroe, Oakridge Boys, Jerry Reed, Johnny Rodriguez, Patsy Slead, Kitty Wells, Mac Wiseman, Johnny Wright, and Tammy Wynette. Bill Anderson and Pate Brady from BBC Radio's *Up Country* programmes will compete there.

The two-day festival is to be recorded for a series of three BBC TV specials to be screened soon after the event.

Jackson, Doctor Ross The Harmonica Boss, Eddie Playboy Taylor and Big John Wrencher.

Other dates - Bristol University (Feb 2), Shaw Theatre, London (Feb 3), York University (Feb 5), Aberystwyth University (Feb 6), recording for BBC Radio One's *In Concert* (Feb 7), Brighton Poly (Feb 8), Loughborough University (Feb 9), Apollo, Glasgow (Feb 1), Free Trade Hall, Manchester (Feb 11), Liverpool University, De Montfort Hall (Feb 12), Sheffield Poly (Feb 13), Lancaster University (Feb 15), Durham University (Feb 16), Birmingham Repertory Theatre (Feb 17), Jacquard, Norwich (Feb 18), Bangor University (Feb 20), Portsmouth Poly (Feb 21).

## Joni for the charts

**JONI** MITCHELL, set to tour Britain in May, has her first album in over a year released here on February 22. Titled *Court and Spark*, the set features 10 new Joni songs and Annie Ross's *Twisted* her first recording of another's work.

The set also features for the first time a regular back-up band including such stars as Robbie Robertson, Jose Feliciano, Dave Crosby, Graham Nash, and Cheech and Chaz. The last named do a stoned rap on *Twisted*.

Joni has just embarked on a 20-city tour of the States, again, for the first time with a backup band. If this tour is successful, she is expected to come to Britain with her band in May.

## Legends

**AMERICAN** BLUES LEGEND '74, the annual touring Blues Festival from Big Bear Records, opens at Lancaster Arts Festival on February 1. On the bill are Cousin Joe Pleasant, George G. P.

## For Europe

**OLIVIA** NEWTON-JOHN's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton on April 6 will be from six numbers she'll be singing on Jimmy Saville's *Cunk Click Clunk Click* show starting on BBC-1 on February 2. The Beeb drew up a short list from an original entry of 340.

The contest in which Britain has been drawn second in order of presentation, will be hosted by Katie Boyle. There are 18 countries competing, Greece being the newcomer this year.

## Wizzard major tour

**WIZZARD** begin their first nationwide tour of the UK in February following the completion of their new album due for release in the Spring.

Dates are as follows: Glasgow (February 7); Edinburgh (8); Newcastle (9); Ipswich (10); Cardiff (15); Southampton (17); Liverpool (23); Coventry (24); Hammersmith, London (March 2); Bournemouth (3); Bristol (8); Chatham (10); Stockton (15); Birmingham (17); Blackburn (20); Kettering (22); Sheffield (23); Manchester (24); Halifax (28); Southport (31).

## Focus tour

**FOCUS**, presently recording tracks for its fourth album due for release in late March, have a European tour planned for about the same time. At least one major London concert will be taken in.

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**HUDSON Ford**