

Infidels & Popstars

The Del Amitri Companion



Issue 10

November 1998

Editors' Notes:

NASHVILLE, TN - Hi everyone... and happy holidays to you all! As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

With this issue, we unfortunately must announce that Issue #12 will be the final official issue of I&P. Both Anna and I have recently experienced some major career advances, and as a result have found ourselves unable to spend the amount of time we feel this publication and you as the fans deserve. We want to make the last two issues the best ever... so please keep sending us your Del Amitri stories, photos, concert reviews, etc.

The main reason we chose Issue #12 as the final issue is that for most of you, that issue is the natural end to your subscription. The others of you will receive a refund for the remainder of your subscription. We have had several people contact us about continuing with another printed magazine.

We will let you know if any of those things come to fruition, and will make sure those parties know how to reach you. As always, there is an abundance of Del Amitri information on the web, at Alison's Official Del Amitri Homepage (del-amitri.linex.com), on Darren's Opposite View mailing list (e-mail darren@spiritone.com for sign-up information), and on many other sites you can reach through both of those sources.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your subscription. With the next issue, we'll also let you know which back issues we have available just in case you missed any of them. Best wishes to you all during the holidays and into the New Year!

BOURNEMOUTH, UK - I just want to give advance notice that a very good friend of mine here in the UK will be commencing a new Del Amitri publication when I&P stops, which will be designed to take over where we leave off. I will be co-operating fully with this UK venture and will still be helping out with the new publication as much as time allows. You will be given full details in the next issue.

About Infidels & Popstars:

The Editors of this Delzine are:

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Please feel free to contact any of us at the e-mail addresses above or at either of the subscription addresses found on page 19. For more information on Del Amitri please visit the **Infidels & Popstars** Web Site at: <http://www.copilot.com/delzine/> and most importantly... for the most comprehensive Del Amitri information on the WWW please visit Alison Bellach's official Del Amitri Web Site at <http://del-amitri.linex.com>. You can now access both sites, the A&M site and the Del Amitri On-Line Mailing List through the main page:

<http://www.delamitri.com>

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1&P Readers' Letters

RE: Cry To Be Found Review

To have a letter printed, it is probably not a good idea to disagree with the Editor. However, I must take Anna Barwick to task on her review of *Cry To Be Found* (Issue 9).

Ok, it is not profound, there is no apparent social observations, and OH! horror!, it is very melodic! Is it really such a departure from *Mother Nature's Writing, Through All That Nothing*, or even *Sometimes I Just Have To Say Your Name*, from way back on *Change Everything*?

Personally, I like *Cry...* I think the string arrangement adds a touch of class to yet another beautifully composed Currie/Harvie song. To compare it to Lionel Richie, The Wets and Take That is at best OTT, at worst insulting.

If pushed I would have to say it owes more to Texas' Say What You Want or It Ain't Over - Lenny Kravitz than anything I have heard from Boyzone!

All this said, Anna deserves credit for her honesty. It is refreshing to read an opinion in a fanzine which is not formed out of blind loyalty, and if it provokes constructive debate - terrific!

However, a point we (Del fans) cannot ignore is this: Del Amitri NEED a big hit!

If that hit is *Cry...* I don't have a problem with that. I would put up with a cover of the Birdie Song if it means Del Amitri keep recording for many more years.

Robert Urquhart,

Inverness, Scotland

LOUSY WITH LOVE

I have received many letters questioning the separate release of the b-sides album. Basically there has been a change in the law governing eligibility for the Charts. Had the b-sides album been given away free, Hatful of Rain would not have been eligible for the Charts, so the decision was made to release it as a "budget album", a niche market which has gained much popularity lately. The following is from an article in Music Week, 10 October 1998:

BUDGET FACTFILE

Though it won't bear comparison with the upcoming Oasis album of B-sides, Scots band Del Amitri's recent compilation *The B Sides - Lousy With Love* has turned out to be a surprisingly strong seller. With a dealer price of £3.10, it sold nearly 7,500 copies in the week of its release last month - enough to make it the number one budget album, and the 28th biggest-selling album of all that week. It was naturally overshadowed by its companion album, the hit-crammed *The Best Of Del Amitri - Hatful Of Rain*, but was outsold by a margin of only three to one.

That margin has since stretched to four to one - 56,000 sales against 14,000 - probably because the first week sales were dominated by committed Del Amitri fans who wanted both, while subsequent impulse purchasers are only investing in what they know - the hits. However, its success - and that of the Oasis album - may result in more LPs of this kind being issued in the future.

RE: PRESTON

Thanks for all the information about Dels tour dates this year - I was able to get in there early without hearing about the concerts at the last minute and then panicking that I was going to miss out, so thanks a million!

I went to the Preston concert a couple of nights ago, and I'm still in hyper mode! My friends didn't get to bed very early that night, I was up for ages telling them about it. I get the feeling though, that the Guild Hall is not the group's favourite venue and I am not surprised, it lacks the electric atmosphere other places produce. I would love to get a bit of feedback from others who saw the Dels in Preston, and also where the best venues in the North of England are to see Del Amitri.

Nevertheless, the concert was brilliant, a flawless performance, and the tracks kept coming - I could have stayed and listened all night, something I have never experienced at any other concert I have been to. I really enjoyed the Devlins too!

Sarah Ellison, Lancaster

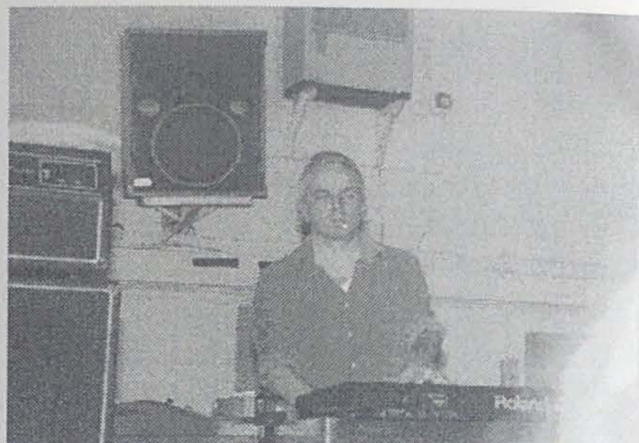
Abbey Road Session 14 September 1998

by Mandy Bloor

On 14 August I was listening to my local radio station. They were running a competition to meet Del Amitri, stay in a hotel, the works. I waited by the phone for nearly four hours, when the DJ said that the trigger question for the competition was "who is the lead singer, and where is he from?". So I called up with the answer, the DJ said I was right and my name would go onto the computer. If I got through he would phone me back, which he did about 10 minutes later. He told me that I would be up against another person and he would ask us to tell him the names of three Dels songs and the year they were hits. The songs were Nothing Ever Happens, Roll To Me and Don't Come Home Too Soon. I got 5/6 and the other girl got 4/6, so I won.

I waited four weeks to get details of the day. Tickets were waiting at the railway station in Stafford on the Saturday, two days before we went. On the Monday we got ready and went on the train to London where a Mercedes was waiting to take us to the hotel. We checked in and sat around until 5pm-ish when we got on the coach to take us to Abbey Road. We were issued with passes, then went straight to the canteen for our tea. I went up the stairs to look for the ladies and found Justin and Iain at the top. My husband, Neil, spoke to Iain, and he showed me where the toilet was. I was too shy to speak to Justin so I just walked past him.

We went into the studio and waited for them to come on stage, late as usual!! then they did a great set, which we were told would last 45 minutes but they did 1 1/2 hours. I took nearly five rolls of film. Afterwards we met Dave Cummings in the crowd. We had a chat and a photo, and



we spoke to Kris as well. Then I got Justin to autograph my stuff and look at some photos. He was in a rush, as usual, on the way to the pub! We got on the coach, went back to the hotel, then a gang of fans went to the pub. We all talked Del Amitri for hours.

The next day I had to go on my radio station, which was broadcasting from London. The DJ did an interview with Justin at Abbey Road the night before, and made out it was live that morning. Then he phoned me up at the hotel and told everyone that I was still in bed and did not get up in time to go to the studio, but he said Justin made it.

I cannot believe it is all over. It was a great two days.

Both photos on this page by Mandy Bloor, taken at the Abbey Road Session.

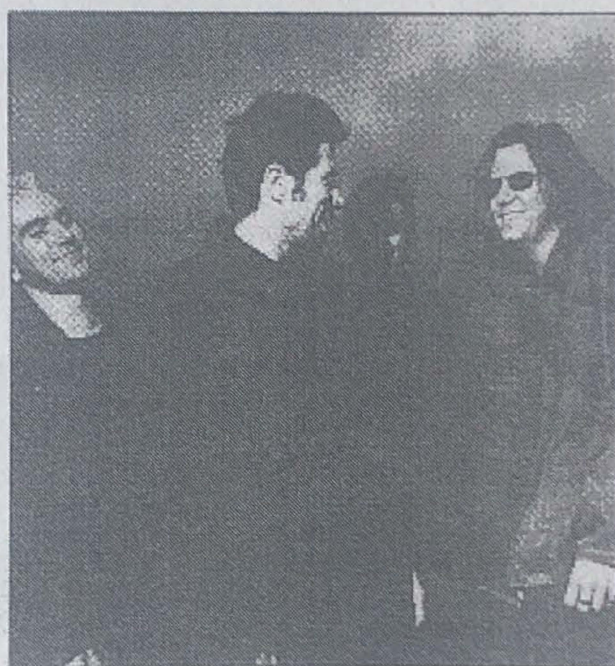


An excerpt from the Bournemouth Daily Echo:

Daily Echo

Diary

- 15 Aug The Chart Show
Cry To Be Found video premiere
- 14 Sep Abbey Road Session
Live recording session with audience
- 14 Sep Talk Music, VH-1
Live performance and interview
- 21 Sep Talk Music, VH-1
Live performance and interview
- 20 Nov TFI Friday, Channel 4
Kiss This Thing Goodbye live
- 26 Nov GMTV
Interview and Always The Last To Know live



SCOTTISH: Del Amitri

Del Amitri are coming home

SCOTTISH popsters Del Amitri who play Poole Arts Centre on November 15 have just released a greatest hits album.

Hatful of Rain: The Best of Del Amitri features 16 top 40 hits ranging from 1990s chart debut *Nothing Ever Happens* to their current single *Cry To Be Found*, and includes the ultra-optimistic Scotland World Cup team anthem *Don't Come Home Too Soon*.

Ironically Del Amitri's Poole gig will be a homecoming of sorts as their fan-club is based here in Bournemouth.

For information on Del Amitri and their fanzine *Infidels and Popstars* contact PO Box 2799, Bournemouth BH7 6ZG.



NEWS UPDATE.....

HATFUL OF RAIN VIDEO

Cat no. 057 962-3 PAL VHS

This video features 17 video singles plus excerpts from the 1997 Aberdeen Capitol concert, screened on ITV last year as "No Better Location".

- 1 Cry To Be Found
- 2 Roll To Me
- 3 Kiss This Thing Goodbye
- 4 Not Where It's At
- 5 Nothing Ever Happens
- 6 Always The Last To Know
- 7 Here And Now
- 8 Just Like A Man
- 9 Spit In The Rain
- 10 When You Were Young
- 11 Driving With The Brakes On
- 12 Stone Cold Sober
- 13 Tell Her This
- 14 Move Away Jimmy Blue
- 15 Be My Downfall
- 16 Don't Come Home Too Soon
- 17 Medicine

Notorious by it's absence is the video for Some Other Sucker's Parade, curiously replaced by the video for the ill-fated Medicine single....

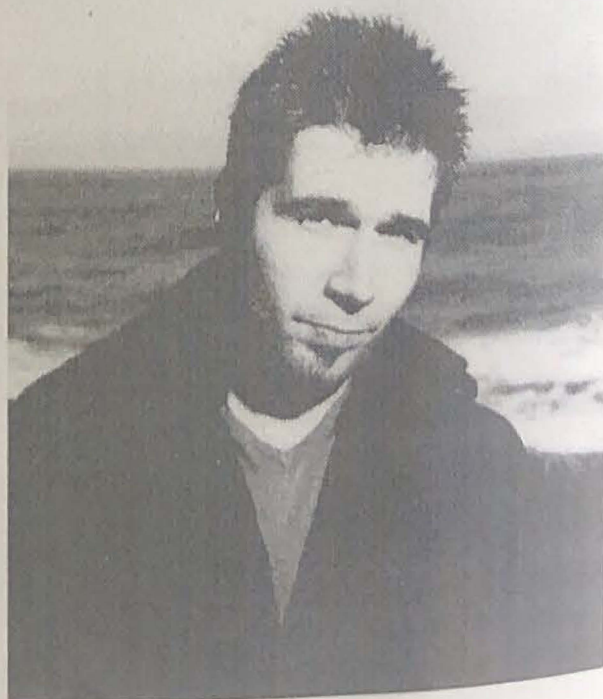
ABBEEY ROAD LIVE

The Abbey Road session will be released in the UK as a limited edition format with the Hatful Of Rain album.

It will be available in shops from 23 November 1998.

SCOTTISH DATES

Despite rumours of a possible Scottish tour before Christmas, we can confirm that this will not take place. As I&P goes to press there are no confirmed tour dates for the foreseeable future as the band are about to start recording a new album. However, they will be supporting the Rolling Stones on at least some of their 1999 UK tour, along with Sheryl Crow.



European Tour October 1998

Berlin Loft, 13 October 1998 Photographic impressions by Janet Barman

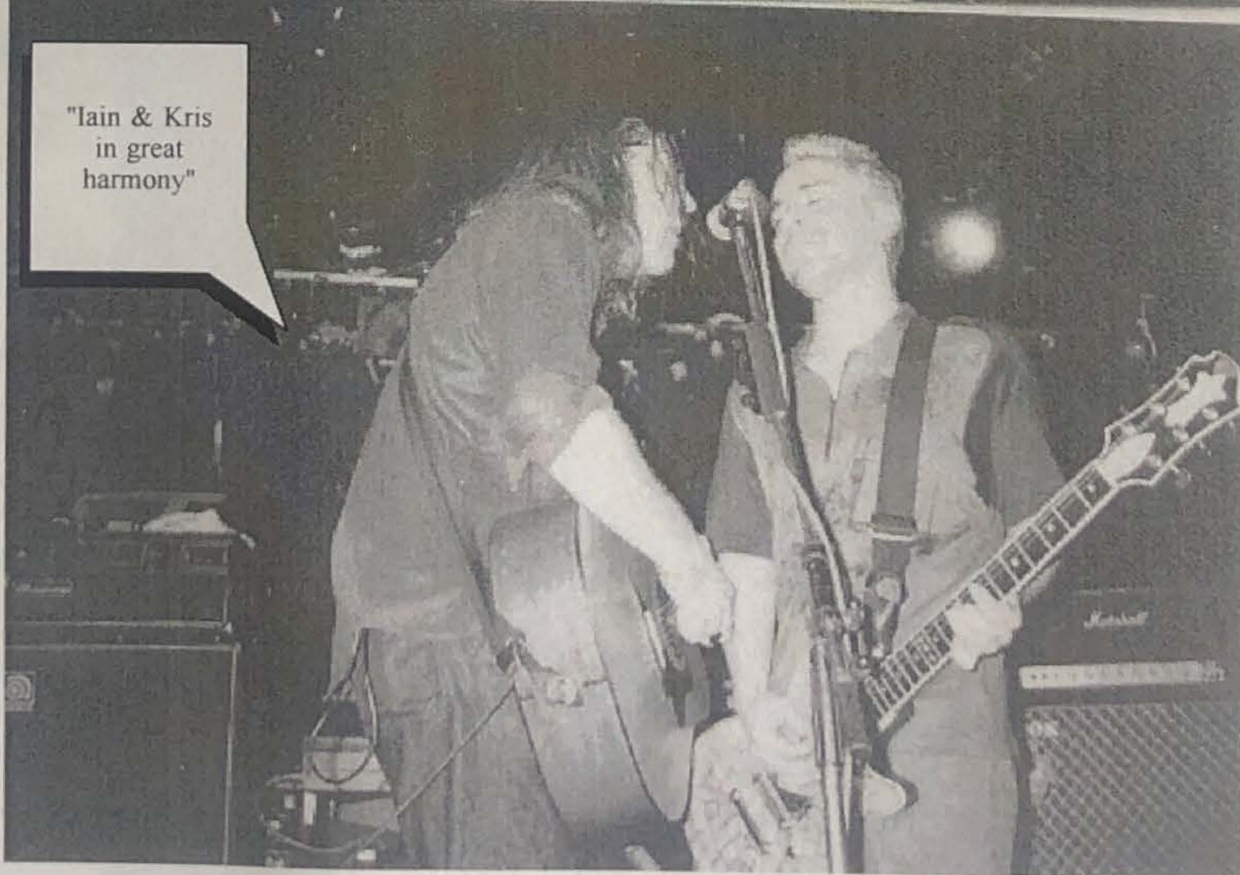
1. ONES YOU LOVE
2. HIGH TIMES
3. LAST TO KNOW
4. THIS SIDE OF THE MORNING
5. LAST CHEAP SHOT
6. HERE & NOW
7. WHAT I THINK SHE SEES
8. JUST LIKE A MAN
9. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
10. DRIVING
11. FOOD FOR SONGS
12. OPPOSITE VIEW
13. NOT WHERE IT'S AT
14. STONE COLD SOBER

1. SOME OTHER SUCKERS
2. JIMMY BLUE
3. NOTHING EVER HAPPENS

*"In the middle
of a song
Justin signed
autographs"*

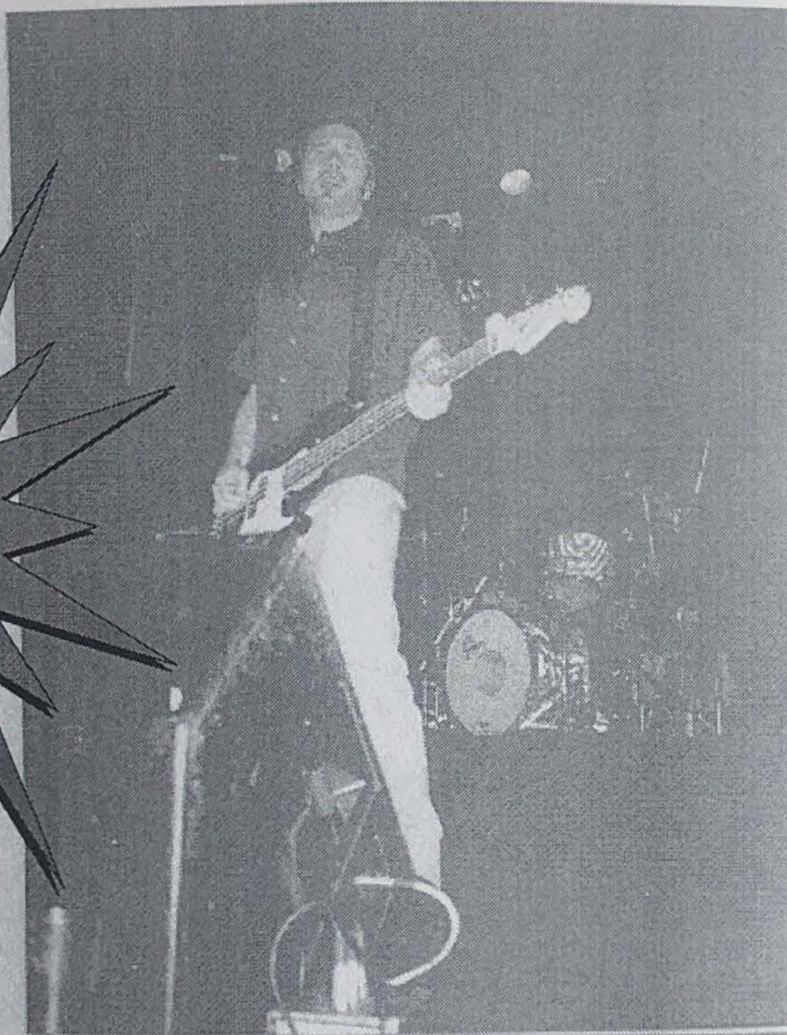
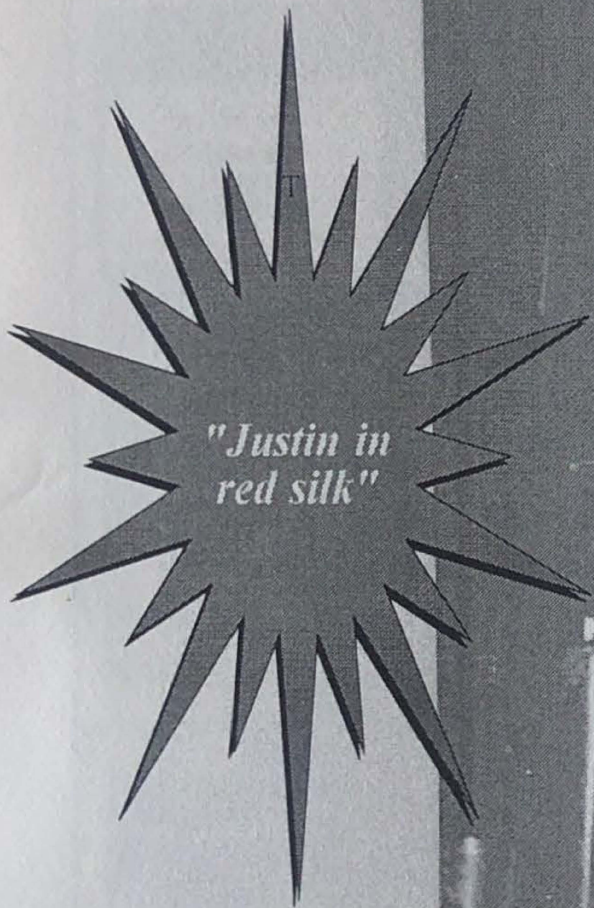


*"Iain & Kris
in great
harmony"*



European Tour October 1998

Hamburg Grosse Freiheit 14 October 1998 More photographic impressions by Janet Barman



European Tour October 1998

Cologne Live Music Hall

16 October 1998

by Petra Alasentie

Last Friday was a great day for us: we went to Cologne to see the Dels again. The concert was at the Live Music Hall which is much bigger than the Wartesaal where they played last year. I guess there were 1,800 people.

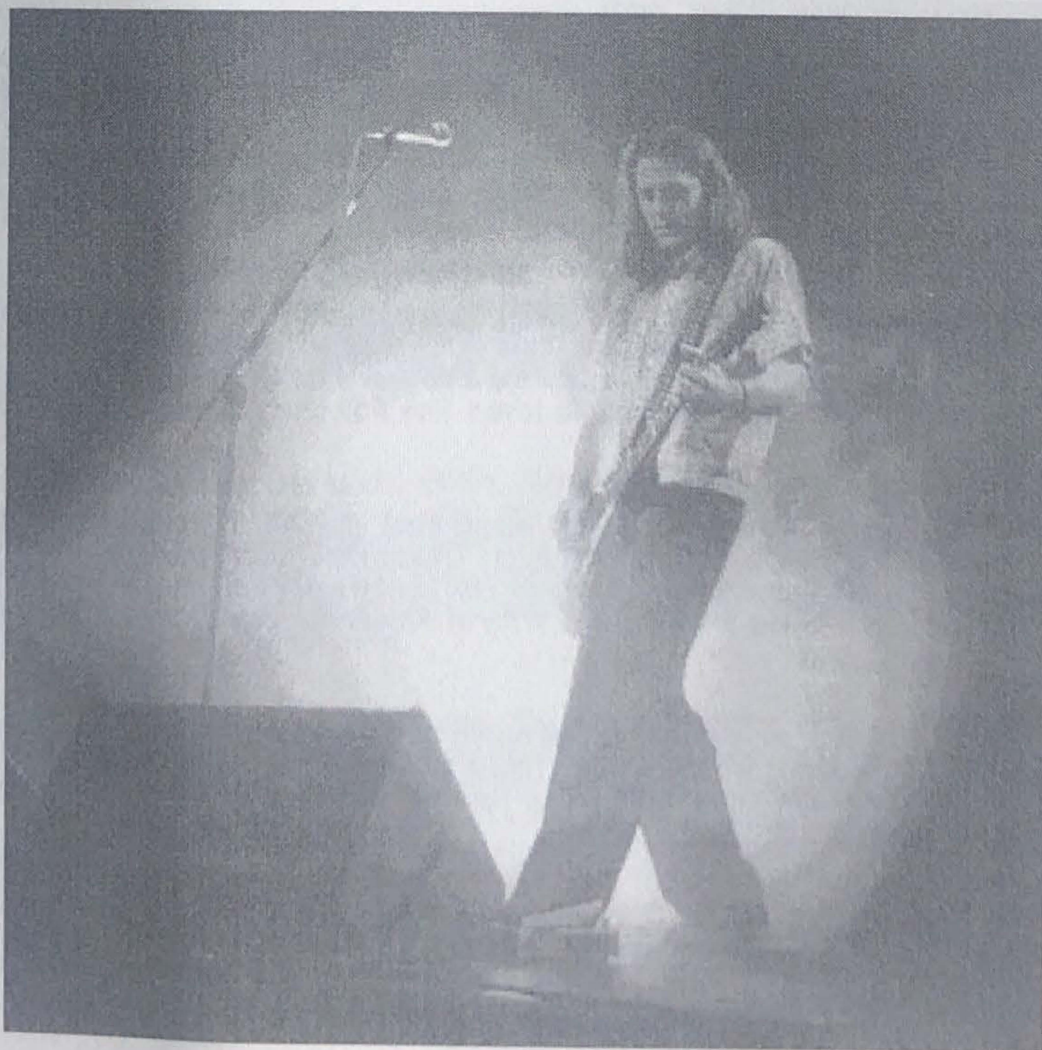
The concert was very short, they played only 17 songs (see copy of set-list). The last song was - unfortunately - not *Nothing Ever Happens* but *Be My Downfall*.

We thought that Iain was not in a good condition. He looked somewhat tired. Justin was really lively and made some jokes to the audience.

LIVE MUSIC HALL, KÖLN

1. ONES YOU LOVE
2. HIGH TIMES
3. LAST TO KNOW
4. THIS SIDE OF THE MORNING
5. LAST CHEAP SHOT
6. HERE & NOW
7. WHAT I THINK SHE SEES
8. JUST LIKE A MAN
9. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
10. DRIVING
11. SCARED TO LIVE
12. OPPOSITE VIEW
13. NOT WHERE IT'S AT
14. STONE COLD SOBER

1. SOME OTHER SUCKERS
2. JIMMY BLUE
3. NOTHING EVER HAPPENS



DEL AMITRI

Del Amitri have constantly flown in the face of musical fashion in the eight years since they first troubled the chart-compilers with the mournful but memorable hit 'Nothing Ever Happens'. But, in their heartfelt, unruffled manner, the Glaswegian group have established themselves as one of Britain's most consistent, reliable and enjoyable singles bands.

That odd (and utterly meaningless) band name might have been coined in the playground by singer and bassist Justin Currie when his trademark mutton-chop sideburns were little more than teenage facial fluff. But the absurd monicker has become synonymous with pop music of the utmost wit and warmth. And the band's first singles compilation, 'Hatful Of Rain: The Best Of Del Amitri' contains no fewer than 16 Top Forty Hits.

From tunes probing the angst of broken romances to songs recalling the dead-end emptiness of a small town existence, the hits of Del Amitri have always been anchored in the nitty-gritty of everyday life. But - in addition to a degree of lyrical honesty which has seen them likened to Bob Dylan, Neil Young and Elvis Costello - their singles have been driven enough melodic hooks to power a Beatles convention.

Quality songs and regular chart entries have been associated with Del Amitri since 1989's 'Waking Hours' album, their first for A&M. But the early days of the group were different. Formed by Currie at a Glasgow school in 1981, the band were initially inspired by Orange Juice, Josef K and the Scottish indie scene surrounding the Postcard label. Other early influences included The Fall, Joy Division, The Cramps and Television.

With guitarist Iain Harvie, of the straggly hair and Dali-esque moustache, having joined in 1982, Del Amitri released an independent single, 'Sense Sickness', made for £300, and signed to Chrysalis subsidiary Big Star.

Though the liaison with Big Star was short-lived, it did produce an album, 1985's 'Del Amitri', before the band were set free in 1986.

"We didn't know how to write songs back then," says Justin. "We put the emphasis on originality rather than melody. We had ten songs which took twenty minutes to play. It was amazing we managed to fill an album. We were also the least hip band in Glasgow. We were the sad losers with bad haircuts who loved The Fall and wanted to open for The Smiths."

Disowned in their homeland and without a record deal, Del Amitri turned their gaze to America. It was to be their land of opportunity. Though the band were destitute, they toured the States for two months in 1986, playing for beer money and sleeping on people's floors. Exposure to the blues and country roots of American rock changed the group's attitude.

"Before going to America, we thought of Del Amitri as an art band," says Justin. "But we visited college radio stations which played groups such as REM, James and the Smiths, which were cool in Britain, alongside Bruce Springsteen and Creedance Clearwater Revival. It blew everything open."

"We realised there was something to be said for a verse and a chorus and that it didn't matter if we wrote a traditional rock song with its roots in other music. We came back from America and realised we weren't indie. It was then that we wrote the songs for 'Waking Hours'"

Released in 1989 - just as the fashion-conscious UK music press were turning from 'shoegazing' to indie-dance rhythms - 'Waking Hours' stood out for its traditional melodic craft and guile. As well as the morning-after bleakness of 'Nothing Ever Happens', the album contained the slow-burning 'Stone Cold Sober', the plaintive 'Move Away Jimmy Blue' and the harmonica-led pop of 'Kiss This Thing Goodbye'. While the songs were shaped by strumming acoustic guitars, banjos and accordion, they also benefited from clever pop production.

With drummer Brian McDermott and guitarist David Cummings on board, and a world tour behind them, Del Amitri went into 'Change Everything', their 1992 album, with some trepidation. Now a mainstream band, they were nonetheless uncomfortable with pop stardom. The outcome was a batch of songs - including singles 'Just Like A Man', 'Always The Last To Know', 'Be My Downfall' and 'When You Were Young' - fuelled by guilt, revenge, infidelity, jealousy and an overpowering sense of melancholy.

"Most of them were miserable, breaking-up-with-your-girlfriend songs," says Justin. "The key song for us was 'Just Like A Man', which we wanted as the first single. I was in the middle of a crap relationship and that came out in the songs. But it changed the nature of our fans. Previously we had a broad audience. It quickly changed to a more serious, earnest one. We lost the screaming girls who bought the first album."

By 'Twisted', in 1995, the group had again moved on. Inspired partly by the Black Crowes and the Jayhawks, Del Amitri set out to make a live-sounding American rock record. Judged by the performance of 'Roll To Me' - which reached the Billboard Top Ten and was the most-played single on American radio in 1996 - they succeeded spectacularly.

A song which aped Paul McCartney in its use of melody, 'Roll To Me' set the tone for three further chart hits in the easygoing country-rocker 'Here And Now', the dreamy Eagles-esque ballad 'Driving With The Brakes On' and the acoustic pop of 'Tell Her This'. It also set up Del Amitri for a tour which lasted nearly two years.

By 1997's 'Some Other Sucker's Parade', the group had gone back to basics and decreed that no song should be longer than three minutes or feature acoustic guitars. While the rules were occasionally stretched, the album did include two succinct gems in the unashamedly-Stonesy title track and the chiming, Nick Lowe-style power pop of 'Not Where It's At'.

While 'Parade' was their last studio album, Del Amitri have been far from idle in 1998. In addition to 'Don't Come Home Too Soon', the official Scotland World Cup song for France '98, the group have been recording with Kev Bacon and Jon Quamby - the duo behind Finley Quaye and Audioweb - and have produced the sparse, soulful single 'Cry To Be Found', a song reminiscent of vintage Curtis Mayfield and Norman Whitfield's groundbreaking work with the Temptations.

While pointing top a future rich in possibly, 'Cry To Be Found' is also, as the opening track on the singles collection, a perfect introduction to Del Amitri's past. The song is a musical departure, but its mood of bruised romanticism is also echoed in the older singles which follow it. "We have always been wary of doing a hits compilation in the past," says Justin. "We have shied away, even when our record company have suggested one...which was usually after each studio album! Now the time feels right."

Adrian Thrills (July 1998)

(Article reproduced courtesy of Mercury Records)

UK Tour 1998.....

Liverpool Royal Court - 31 October 1998

by Jayne Mayers

The Devlins' gear is shifted off-stage - they were good, I'm impressed. The road crew are doing their thing now, plugging in amplifiers and testing microphones. I'm sitting up in the circle and from this height they look like grubby little boys as they are wearing combat shorts - one has a very short hair-cut and he looks like a little evacuee. So, eventually they've "one-two'd" until the sound is okay and a guy comes on to psyche us up for the Dels' entrance. Where on earth was he from? Did anyone else think he sounded like Joe Pesci goes to Govan? Who was he?

So, then the band come on stage, it is good to see them, the crowd are great and really make them welcome. The boys look gorgeous as always, especially Iain, but more of that later.

They rip through their opening songs with incredible energy. Considering that Kris and Mark are still quite new they were great when they played oldies like *Opposite View*, *This Side Of The Morning* and the wonderful *Jimmy Blue*. They did a magnificent rendering of *High Times*, one of my all-time favourite tracks, it was the first time I have heard it live and it had an even more sardonic edge to it because we could see the expressions on Justin's face as he sang - what a treat!

They've got this Lottery Machine that they crank up to randomly choose a song from a selection that is displayed on a board at the back of the stage (thankfully no Dale Winton or Septic Peg). Anyway, no. 10 is the first ball out and they should sing *Ace Of Spades*, - "we did that last night!, "not again", so the self-defeating lottery did not help at request time after all. Still, it gave us a laugh. Justin tells us that "we've played here about 500 times, and it's still ***@@ magic". (Expletive deleted). So we forgive them.

Andy's accordion solo was well received, it is so nice to see him step out of the shadows, he was really cool not to miss a note when a couple of crew were pinching his bum in the middle of a song.

Iain is incredible tonight, he plays some blinding lead-riffs with this look of intense concentration on his face, eyes tightly shut but utterly focused. I looked at him and realised that he'd have made a great William Wallace in *Braveheart*. Better than Mel Gibson, I mean he would not have needed a wig for starters, he has an authentic accent (no need for a dialogue coach here) and to top it all, I bet he has got great legs for a kilt!

At the end of the show I count that they have done twenty songs, Justin explains that they are doing extra because "we love you". You gotta love him, haven't you?

They get three encores and do *Some Other Sucker's Parade*, *Not Where It's At*. Like last year, they wow us with their version of *Ticket To Ride*. Andy comes out of the background again to do a tambourine solo and nearly hits Kris in the face with it as they share the mike. True to form they exit with *Kiss This Thing Goodbye*. Justin tells us they will be back next year, I for one will be counting the days. There was nobody there that night that didn't dance to the same tune as I....

UK Tour 1998.....

Liverpool Royal Court 31 October 1998

Set List:

**The Ones That You Love Lead You
Nowhere**

Here And Now

Just Like A Man

Opposite View

High Times

Scared To Live

When You Were Young

This Side Of The Morning

Be My Downfall

Always The Last To Know

What I Think She Sees

In The Frame

Stone Cold Sober

Move Away Jimmy Blue

Driving With The Brakes On

Some Other Sucker's Parade

Not Where It's At

Ticket To Ride

One Thing Left To Do

Kiss This Thing Goodbye

Leeds Town & Country Club, 28 October 1998,
reviewed by an I&P subscriber for Yorkshire
Evening Post:

DEL AMITRI/LEEDS TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB

BANDS like Glaswegian tunesmiths Del Amitri are pure critic fodder. Their crafted adult pop is easy pickings for any hack in search of something to stick the knife into on a bad review night.

But not this hack.

Unfashionable and uncool they may be, but the Dels rocked the Leeds T&C to the core last night.

Lead singer Justin Currie had the crowd eating out of the palm of his hand right from the first note of the feverishly energetic opener The Ones That You Love Lead You Nowhere.

The frantic momentum was maintained with Always The Last To Know, This Side Of The Morning, poptastic Just Like A Man, and easy going Here & Now.

Nostalgia was mixed with modern day as the beautiful ballad Driving With The Brakes On led from the front followed by Nothing Ever Happens, Kiss This Thing Goodbye and Not Where It's At.

There was also room for new material with Last Cheap Shot At The Dream holding its own among established favourites including Stone Cold Sober.

And a Yorkshire father-of-one who impersonated Currie on ITV's Stars In Their Eyes programme, came on stage to sing the band's US hit Roll To Me.

Tune into that Del vibe - they are well worth a listen.

ANDREW HUTCHINSON

DEL AND ME

by Chris Fleming

I thought I would drop a line to tell you about Del and me.

It all started in 1989. My employment at the time involved lots of time off which I spent listening to the radio. There was one song that the local station was playing and it had this steady bass line and lots of guitars in it and the guy was singing about something that made a lot of sense. It turned out to be a song called "*Kiss This Thing Goodbye*", by a band called Del Amitri, curious name but the song was excellent, I quickly purchased the 12" single and there was something even more curious about this band, they looked ordinary, and the b-sides were as good as the a-side. Anyway months went on and I saw the album by that band with the funny name at my local record store and judging by the single I purchased "*Waking Hours*". Well, it was the best album I had ever heard, and after the first listen of "*This Side Of The Morning*", I had to stop the tape and rewind to listen to the song once more just to check I had heard brilliance.

I saw that the band was touring the local universities and clubs, and me and some friends were going to get tickets and go to see this band with the curious name, great songs and weird sidies.

About one week after buying the album I was at my uncle and aunt's for some family get-together when my uncle began to tell me about their eldest son and my big cousin. The last I had heard about my cousin was that he was playing with some band called Brothers and Sisters. My uncle then told me that he had been doing session work with this new band and he was about to go on tour with them, he told me that band's name was "Del Amitri", my cousin is the quiet one at the back with keyboards and accordion.

And so it was to be 10 years of loyal support of the greatest band in the world, who happens to have a member of my family as one of the members. The advantages over the years has been getting tickets to any gig, going backstage at these gigs, however once backstage it was all gossip about the family and how each others families were doing (and drinking lots of free beer and picking up the odd set-list or two). Usually when the Dels were touring I suddenly became very popular at work!! Well I could talk for hours about my support for the greatest band in the world, or my disappointment at the poor PR. of the records and sometimes of the weird single releases, but I will leave you with a list of my faves:

FAVOURITE SONG: THIS SIDE OF THE MORNING

FAVOURITE SINGLE: SPIT IN THE RAIN

FAVOURITE ALBUM: WAKING HOURS

BEST LIVE SONG: BEING SOMEBODY ELSE

BEST LIVE SHOW: GALASHIELS, SCOTLAND 1990 (1ST TIME I SAW THEM LIVE)

Yours, the cousin of a Groovy Tube, who will laugh at me next we meet for writing to I&P.

Live the dream Andy.

UK Tour 1998.....

Reviews for Newcastle and Middlesbrough

by Wendy & Dave

Friday 23rd October '98 - Newcastle City Hall

Before the Dels took to the stage they were introduced by a strange European roadie, who looks suspiciously like Buddy ! He sang the praises of Del Amitri and encouraged everyone to stand up and to sing and dance. Which everyone duly did, which was pretty unusual for the City Hall as it's an all seater venue! The set list was great including *Opposite View*, *Food For Songs*, *When You Were Young*, *Last Cheap Shot*, *Scared to Live*, *In The Frame*, and *Cry To Be Found*.

When Justin introduced *Cry To Be Found* towards the end of the set, he said it was the first time they had played the track live and not to think it strange if we could hear instruments being played that were obviously not on the stage! They then played the song along with backing tapes. Justin was not happy as he could be seen turning around giving the roadies a "This isn't working" look, and resulting in a change of bass half way through the song. At the end Justin apologised as the song hadn't worked out but to our untrained ears it sounded fine. Justin has to sing quite high, and doesn't seem particularly happy doing so. Anyway Justin said that the song would now have to be dropped from the set list (and it was dropped the following night in Middlesbrough) - guess it needs more fine tuning. When introducing *In the Frame*, Justin said that the song was about his sister, explaining that she was "crap" at taking photographs, hence 'finger in the frame'. He also remarked that "he had never had sex with his sister"!

The big surprise of the evening was the lottery machine! Half way through the set the "strange European roadie" made his way on stage again to the strains of "Misirlou", the theme from Pulp Fiction, being hammered about by Kris and Justin and unveiled the Del Amitri lottery machine. Justin then explained that they got so many requests for songs shouted at them during shows that they thought having a machine pick the songs out would be a great idea. Then a huge board listing ten songs came swinging onto the stage. The list included *Hotel California*, *Maggie Brown*, *Nothing Ever Happens*, *Cry To Be Found* to *Agadoo!* The first number out was 6 - *Ace Of Spades!* It's a shame Justin turned up the volume on his bass so high that it ended up sounding more like a distorted wailing banshee than a bass!

The band seemed to enjoy it - the crowd too - even though Iain's vocals were barely audible through the din. The board then swung back off the stage (it made its second appearance later in the show during the encores, and even though *CTBF* wasn't picked by the lottery machine tonight they still played it as one of the encores). The lottery board also took half of the gold Christmassy tassels backdrop with it when leaving the stage ! We just wonder how much of the backdrop will be left intact by the end of the tour ?!

All in all a good show, with a bit of on stage banter with Justin telling everyone how he had just found his (light brown) shirt at the bottom of his travel case, and that he had last worn it at last year's Edinburgh show. He commented that it smelled "as though a hamster had pissed on it", and made a few comments about the next day's Newcastle/Spurs game. We think the shirt should have stayed at the bottom of the case! It had a definite man at C&A look rather than "frontman in a band" type of shirt! Also a nice surprise was some decent merchandise including a tour book and mugs !

Saturday 24th October '98 - Middlesbrough Town Hall

First off tonight we managed to catch The Devlins and they were good enough to buy their CD on the way out. Buddy was spotted in the bar and we asked if the lottery machine was fixed. He gave

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a puzzled, "don't know what you are talking about", look. We gave him our requests but he's unbribeable, and his new routine is a great laugh! The Saturday night audience were up for a good night out so Buddy didn't have to do much to encourage the crowd to have a good time. Justin must have read our minds as the yucky light brown shirt had gone and was replaced by a plain bright red number.

Better show than last night - sold out! "F*ckin' Brilliant", according to Justin, as he gave the crowd a round of applause and the thumbs up! Less chat from Justin, but they had a really good time. Changes to the set list, and it can be confirmed that the lottery machine is not rigged! Tonight's lucky balls were 5 and 10, and the song board is changing each night, *Cry To Be Found* and *Ace Of Spades* have disappeared from it. We'll be surprised if the lottery machine lasts the tour - there's too little suck on it! The first time tonight it wouldn't start, then the second time it wouldn't pick a ball! As the machine kept playing up tonight Buddy really got into his tour promoter role by acting out a "Will it be one, two, three.... who knows?", by waving his fingers in the air, whilst the surfing song was played for dramatic effect - we don't know about dramatic but it was very funny!

Set List - the second half of which is not in order as there was no more space on Dave's arm !! - was...

The Ones You Love
High Times
Always The Last To Know
Last Cheap Shot
Not Where It's At
Here And Now
Some Other Suckers Parade
Just Like A Man
When You Were Young
In The Frame
Driving With The Brakes On
Mother Natures Writing (#10)
Stone Cold Sober
Roll To Me (#5)
Opposite View
It's Never Too Late To Be Alone (few lines only as a shouted request)
Scared To Live
Move Away Jimmy Blue
Kiss This Thing Goodbye
Be My Downfall (Like A Virgin)

UK Tour 1998...

Wolverhampton Civic Hall, 5 November 1998

by Rachel Sidney

Remember, remember the 5th of November. Well I certainly will! After three years of persuasion I finally agreed to go with my sister Sam to a Del Amitri concert. Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of the Dels, as my husband says, "Don't you ever listen to anything else?".

It was the idea of the concert that I didn't like. I've never liked crowds and being pushed and jostled about didn't appeal to me in the least. Televised concerts I've seen show thousands of screaming fans pushing and shoving and people getting crushed up against the barriers. Well, Thursday's gig could not have been more different. We arrived at Wolverhampton Civic Hall 30 minutes before the doors opened and thanks to Sam being rather swift on her feet got a place right at the front between where Iain and Justin would be. Nobody pushed or shoved us, we stood in our own space. I must say I was shocked by how polite and friendly the crowd were. I've always considered the music I adore to be private, I didn't think that I could enjoy it as much, sharing the experience with two thousand odd other people. Was I wrong, to be surrounded by all those other like minded souls, all of us singing our hearts out, as one voice. Magical!

I took my camera with me and got some fantastic shots of the lads. I'm sorry I can't tell you all of the songs which were played, or the order, but I was enraptured by the whole experience. *In The Frame* was one of the highlights of my night, just brilliant.

After buying our souvenirs Sam and I decided to hang around outside the stage door, hoping to catch a glimpse of the boys. At around 12.15 the Dels emerged. I couldn't believe how nice they were. I asked Justin for his autograph and he put his arm around me, smiled and said "I'll just put my bags in the coach and be right back". So nice, so kind, so polite, so what happened to the stereotypical image of rock stars? Mean, moody, magnificent. Sam and I took photos of each other with Justin. Iain was fantastic. He took the time to talk to everyone. He put his arms around both Sam and I and gave my camera to another girl to take a photo.

But like all good things, it couldn't go on forever so we had to say goodnight to the greatest guys in rock and get into our car, but the coach couldn't leave as we were blocking them in! We waved as we drove off - *Always The Last To Know* blasting from the car stereo. We sang along on our way back home, to face a different kind of music from our respective husbands for getting home after one o'clock in the morning!



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COLLECTOR: Interested in trading tapes of live shows, radio appearances etc. Write to Mike Gomoll at MGomoll@worldnet.att.net or in care of your I&P subscription address.

MITCH KERR would like to hear from fans anywhere in UK, Europe, USA or wherever who have tapes of concerts or radio sessions or TV appearances. Material from 1983 to present available to swap only. Write to him at: 49 Townhead Street, Strathaven, ML10 6DH, Scotland, or e-mail him at mitchk@dial.pipex.com.

LIVE TAPES/VIDEOS: I will buy, sell, trade live CDs, tapes and videos. I have approx 70 Del Amitri concerts available on CD from 1983 to "The Tartan Tent". Contact me for a list: Gary Hawick, 31 Irongray Street, Glasgow, G31 3SB, Scotland, tel: 0141 5566305.

PENPALS WANTED: Anyone from anywhere with sense of humour: Cheree Garrick, 37 Birdsall Ave, Condell Park, NSW 2200, Australia.

TRADE ONLY: Various rarities in vg/mint condition, as Kiss This Thing Goodbye (UK 7" re-issue, ltd. numbered ed in gatefold cover); Stone Cold Sober (German 7"); When You Were Young (French 7"); Singles 89:98 (German 17 track promo cassette); Twisted Album Sampler (UK 4 track promo CD); Swimming With Your Boots On (Czech 17 track bootleg CD); Don't Come Home Too Soon (UK 1 track promo CD) and many more, as well as different original promo videos from the A&M archives. Complete list on demand. Any offers welcome. (No vinyl please!). Write to: Sasha Kregenow, Liegnitzer Strasse 38, D-10999 Berlin, Germany, or send me a fax: +49 171 3187035.

WANTED: Charlie's Bar, 7" flexi What She Calls It. Stephen Tytler, 73 Newhunterfield, Gorebridge, Midlothian, EH23 4BH, Scotland.

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FOR TRADE: Nothing Ever Happens A&M 4 track promo CD in pic sleeve, Waking Hours CD with original artwork, and Spit In The Rain (UK 4 track CD wallet p/s). Interested? Contact: Andy Hutchinson, 23 Woodhall Park Avenue, Stanningley, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7HF, England, tel (0113) 2554951 or e-mail: AHutch9398@aol.com.

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(Disclaimer: Buy/trade at your own risk. We do our best to check everything out but I&P and it's Editors assume no legal responsibility for transactions made through these classified ads.)

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This is the official Del Amitri Information Service, run by volunteers. They keep a large mailing list, distribute the Dels Newsletter and also attempt to answer fans' letters. They are wonderful and have been very supportive of I&P so we thank them very much!!

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