

CD Review

RECT Music Flashback: October 1983

by Jeremy Rottgen

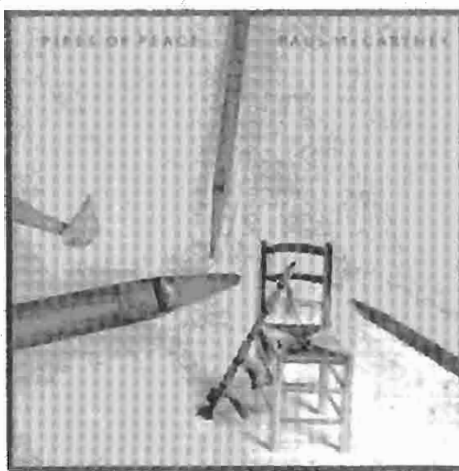


Bob Dylan *INFIDELS*

The world just can't get enough of Bobby D, no matter what style he decides to jam in. In 1983 he decided to stretch his

musical muscle and attempt a reggae record. Like Peter Tosh and Bob Marley, Dylan has a flair for pointing out the political shortcomings of our nation. It seems he couldn't get enough hits under his belt either. *Infidels* contained such Dylan gems as "Jokerman" and "Man of Peace." Guitar phenom Mark Knopfler from Dire Straits helped produce this early '80s enigma, while laying down guitar tracks as well. *Infidels* was happier than most of Dylan's previous albums even with the weighty issues, but if you ask anybody who lived in the '80s, they'll tell you it was one big ball of fun— except for Reaganomics, the Cold War and unemployment. It was definitely a departure for Dylan, but who can blame a guy for wanting to experiment after making so much good music for so many years? Even 20 years ago Dylan was established, so it

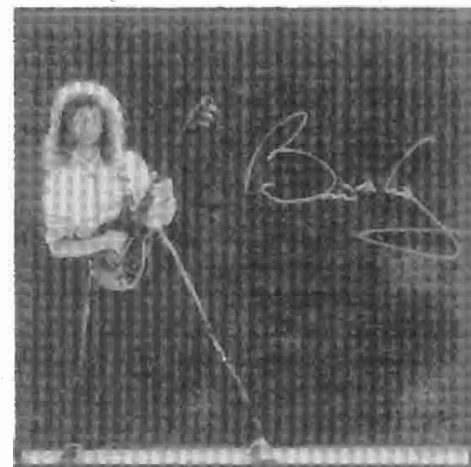
just goes to show that he is a musical icon in any decade.



Paul McCartney *Pipes of Peace*

This memorable Sir McCartney album includes tracks like "Say Say Say" and "The Man" in which Michael Jackson teams up with the former Beatle. What kind of pipe was McCartney smoking when he thought to team up with the gloved one? It's okay though, this was long before "Jack-O is Wacko" was Jackson's headline and they were once good friends. Plus, they were both huge stars at the time. *Pipes* ultimately got lost in the deluge of McCartney albums. The only memorable moments are, sadly, the ones with the King of Pop. It probably would've been better if McCartney concentrated on Wings more at the time. Diehard fans still hold this album in high esteem, but if you ask, it's probably not their favorite.

Genesis topped the U.K. charts and climbed to the ninth spot on U.S. charts. A number of singles were released for this album including "Mama," "That's All," "Illegal Alien" and "Taking It All Too Hard," none of which were big hits. Genesis was still a young band at the time. The baby-faced Phil Collins hadn't crooned his way to the top. There are few bands that can be classified as solid professionals. This trio looked more like economics professors than rock stars. It begs the question: Where is Genesis now? The last time I saw Phil Collins he was on Bravo and he was, of course, playing "In the Air Tonight." The other two? Probably mowing Collins' lawn. Frankly, just to put one myth to rest, the only thing in the air tonight smells like gym socks and the famous myth about that song is totally bogus, but it will go on forever as long as Eminem raps about it and fifth graders read too literally into lyrics.



Brian May *Starfleet Project*

Any true music fan loves a super group and Starfleet Music was definitely super. Brian May formed the Starfleet Project with Eddie Van Halen, established bassist and session player Phil Chen, REO Speedwagon drummer Alan Gratzer and Alice Cooper keyboardist Fred Mandel. The record only features three songs: "Starfleet," "Let Me Out" and an ode to guitar god Eric Clapton called "Blues Breaker." Van Halen and May are two of the best guitarists of all time, so it's a shame this album didn't do very well. This album will always be a classic to readers of guitar magazines. Unfortunately, the only people who bought this record were the only ones who knew about it: nerdy guitarists and music critics and it's no longer available, except to an avid collector with an ass-load of money.



Genesis *Genesis*

This was nearly a decade before Genesis learned "The Way We Walk." Phil Collins is one of those exasperating journeymen who never seemed to do any wrong in the rock world or go away, for that matter.

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