

# OPEL

The New Syd Barrett Newsletter  
From:- I. Trueman 10 Warwick Place  
Tywyn Gwynedd Wales LL36 0DH

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HELLO - Welcome to the first issue of "OPEL".  
Hopefully this will be a new SYD BARRETT newsletter/fanzine aimed at providing a platform for Syd Barrett fans to communicate, and also, to co-ordinate efforts to release some more Barrett material. If there is enough interest I would like to get some posters, 'T' shirts, and badges printed. This is likely to be expensive however so we'll have to wait & see.



I'm not really interested in reports of Syd's physical or mental condition, though this is of great concern to me. Someone who has been as creative as Syd deserves to be remembered for his music. The reports of sightings and such like by so-called 'music' journalists will find no place here.

Most of you will, perhaps, recognize the title 'OPEL' as that of one of Syd's unreleased songs from the madcap sessions. To the best of my knowledge this song is complete and still in the possession of E.M.I.. It has been described as one of his best songs, and would make an ideal release on a single or E.P., made up from the alternative takes in E.M.I.'s possession. If you are interested in forming a petition to release "OPEL" then scribble your name, and as many friends names as possible on a piece of paper, and send it to me. If we can get a suitable number I'll pass it onto Harvest. Alternatively I'm sure labels like Cherry Red, Rhino, Charly or Outline would be interested if they were given the chance to release some Syd Barrett material.

## "VEGETABLE MAN"

Lyrics reprinted by kind permission of ESSEX MUSIC CO Ltd.

In yellow shoes, I get the blues  
So I walk the streets, with my plastic feet  
With blue-velvet trousers, make me feel pink  
There's a kind of stink, about blue-velvet trousers

In my paisley shirt, I look a jerk  
An my turquoise waistcoat, is quite out of sight

But...oh!...oh!...my haircut looks so ba-ad  
Vegetable man where are you?

SATURDAY SCENE  
CORN EXCHANGE  
CHELMSFORD  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd  
**THE PINK FLOYD**  
plus supporting group  
Adm. 8/6 in advance, 10/- on night

So I changed my gear, and I buy my jeans  
And I covered them up, with the latest cut  
My pants and socks were bought in a box  
It don't take long, to buy nylon socks  
An I watch my watch, with a black face  
An a date, in a little hole and  
All a lot is what I've got  
Is what I wear is what you see  
It must be me, it's what I am

announce that their Sole Agents are: BRYAN MORRISON AGENCY  
142 Charing Cross Road, W.C.2 TEL 0171-2/8686  
Sole Management: BLACKHILL ENTERPRISES  
41 Edbrooke Road, W.9 283-0173

Vegetable Man  
Ah..aha..ha..haha..ha....

I've been looking all over the place  
For a place for me  
But it ain't anywhere, it just ain't anywhere  
Vegetable man,  
He's the kind of fella you've got to see if you can,  
Vegetable Man...

↑ M.M. 21/1/67

This first edition is a bit smaller than I hope later editions will be. Only you can alter this however. If you can supply articles/drawings/photographs/poems/reviews/cartoons-anything, or can help in the running and distribution then please let me know. Similarly if you want to advertise anything or if you want to contact other Barrett fans please write, no charge will be made for adverts or for printing peoples addresses. Any material you wish to send will be treated carefully and returned as soon as possible. I can't pay your postage however as Opel is already in financial difficulty.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Ivor Trueman.

### "RADIO/TV APPEARANCES/PROMO FILMS ETC"

Below is a list of all the material that I know was made by the Pink Floyd or by Syd. There is a lot of missing information so if you can help please do!

- 20/1/67: U.f.o Club was filmed for Granada TV and broadcast on 1/2/67.  
 6/3/67: Granada TV, content unknown.  
 3-6/4/67: Top of the Pops, filming of Arnold Layne. Due to be broadcast on the 6th but reported in the Melody Maker as having been cancelled due to a fall of three places. It's probable that it was broadcast in the first week and then cancelled in the second.  
 24/4/67: Reported starting date for a half hour film by the group. Provisionally titled "The Life Story Of Percy The Ratcatcher", Lucifer Sam was also called Percy The Ratcatcher in the recording studio.  
 14/5/67: BBC TV, "Look of The Week", here they played POW. R TOCH. live in the studio.  
 6/1/67: Top of the Pops, showing of See Emily Play. Does anyone know the middle date  
 9/7/67: BBC2 TV Filmed the Floyd at the Roundhouse.  
 17/7/67: London Rediffusion show "Come Here Often".  
 27/7/67: Top of the Pops, last showing of See Emily Play.  
 28/7/67: BBC1 "Saturday Club". Sad appearance by P.F. Syd hammed up a live version of Set The Controls... There was also an interview with Brian Mathews.  
 1-2/8/67: German TV appearances. Is there any Barrett fans in Germany who know more



## PINK FLOYD TV DEBUT

THE PINK FLOYD make their first ever appearance on BBC-TV's Top Of The Pops tonight (Thursday), with their first chart entry, "Arnold Layne". The group go on to play the Salisbury City Hall; and tomorrow (Friday) they hire a plane to take them to a gig at the Floral Hall, Belfast. On Saturday (April 8) the Floyd play at Bishops Stortford and then North London's Roundhouse. They then play the Bath

Pavillion, (April 10); Tilbury Railway Hotel (13); Newcastle A Go-Go (14); and the Brighton Arts Festival (16).

Plans have moved ahead quickly for the group to start shooting sequences for their first feature film on April 24. The provisional title of the half-hour film is The Life Story Of Percy The Ratcatcher. On May 12 the Pink Floyd appear in a giant gala at the new Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank.

M W S/4/67

- 9-13/9/67: Denmark TV and Radio.
- 25/9/67: BBC Radio One. John Peel's Top Gear session. They played Matilda Mother Gnome Scarecrow and Flaming.
- 24/10/67 until 11/67: American tour containing many disasterous TV shows etc.
- 17/12/67: BBC
- 20/12/67 : Top Gear. The above two dates may have been to record the broadcast session on feb. 11th.
- 11/2/67 : Top Gear . Here they played Jugband Blues, Scream Thy Last Scream, Vegetable Man and Pow. r Toc. h.

There is also some material which I cannot fix dates to. In the u.f.o advert for March 10th a Promo film for Arnold Layne is mentioned. There is also a film for Jugband Blues (see page four).

Also, a film for Apples and Oranges exists but features Gilmour on guitar while Waters mimes to Syd's voice.

One clip that does feature syd consists of the Floyd running along at the top of a bank, and then rolling downhill. It only lasts about 30 secs and I believe it was made as an advertisement for a What's On In London type of thing. The music for this is Scarecrow.

The film TONITE LET'S ALL MAKE LOVE IN LONDON features a version of Interstellar Overdrive, as I'm sure your all aware. However those of you who have never seen the film may not realize that the full version of the song is 11 mins long. While only the first part of it is available on the soundtrack L.P. I have been told the song is split in two at the beginning and end of the picture. Incidentally the soundtrack L.P. has just been re-issued in the original cover.

I think the Floyd may also appear in another film issued in 68. It may have been called "All you need is love" but I'm not sure.

On radio there was an interview with Radio London which was rebroadcast as part of their story of pink floyd. An interview with the Canadian radio station (possibly the same one) was broadcast as part of their story of the pink floyd.

Syd has also had two solo radio broadcasts. The first was for John Peel on 18/5/70 which included versions of Baby Lemonade, Terrapin, Gigalo Aunt, Two Of A Kind, Effervescent Elephant. The second was for Bob Harris's "Sounds Of The Seventies" when he played Dominoes, Baby Lemonade & Love Song, this was broadcast some time in february 1971.

If you can add to this list then please write.

**"THE MAKING OF THE MADCAP LAUGHS"**

In the last year or so there was an excellent 30 page booklet produced by M. Jones with the above title. For the benefit of those people who haven't bought a copy it consists of a session by session account of "The Madcap Laughs" together with a list of all the floyd master tapes handed in to E.M.I. up to and including the release of "Saucerfull ...". If you are interested in Syd's music you will find descriptions of alternative takes, backing musicians, alternate titles and unreleased songs. It's also a pleasant surprise to hear that Syd was not in such a bad condition as other reports suggest. (Unless those reports came from the long winded Gilmour/Waters sessions).

The booklet is still available.....if you would like a copy send a cheque / postal order for £2 to M. Jones c/o 55 Florence Road, Wimbledon, London S.W.1

I would like to say thanks to Malcolm for taking the time and trouble to produce this booklet. - Nice one Malcolm.

is pretty enough to score Keith a hit higher than "98.6".

**THE PINK FLOYD:** "Arnold Layne" (Columbia): First outing on record from the colourful Pink Floyd with an amusing and weird story about a guy who got himself put inside because he got screwed up whilst learning of the birds and the bees. It was interesting to see how the Floyd were going to fare with the problem of having to make a commercial single - but with their plunging animated, almost electronic sound which occasionally takes the unexpected twist, they have made a good single. It takes a lot of plays to get tuned in but without doubt they've come up with a very good disc. The Pink Floyd represent a new form of music to the English pop scene so let's hope the English are broadminded enough to accept it with open arms. **SIMON AND GARFUNKEL:** "Ac at the Zoo" (CBS): It's record

**FLOYD. DROPPED**

A LAST minute shake up on BBC TV's Top Of The Pops last week cancelled appearances by the Pink Floyd and the Move who were both "in the can" to be on the show. It was to have been the Pink Floyd's first appearance on Top Of The Pops.

Producer Stanley Dorfman told the MM on Monday: "We filmed the Floyd and the Move before last week's show because they were both playing out of town on Thursday night. Naturally we wanted to get the film in the can in case their new records entered the chart. In fact on our combined chart the Floyd dropped three places so it ruled them out of the show."

**UFO CLUB — Friday allnite**

**see the PINK FLOYD go pop**

Promo. film for "Arnold Layne" / Special Guest Robot

Some applications will be available for non-members  
Members 10/-, Guests 15/- 31 Tottenham Court Road

Wilson, Zappa, and all drop-outs. More details later... Pink Floyd recording with BBC Radiophonic Workshop soundtrack for new BBC Colour TV series. Ravi Shankar expected for

M.M. 11/3/67 →  
← M.M. 14/10/67

M.M. 15/4/67

# TWO GROUPS SURFACING FROM THE UNDERGROUND

# HITS? THE FLOYD COULDN'T CARE LESS

doubt some of you will feel more than a little disappointed with first issue of OPEL. As I stated earlier this is just a platform for you to share any information and to make contact with other Barrett fans. In the second issue, which will hopefully be larger or cheaper than the first, will be a list of records/tapes/pic covers etc, some more cuttings and hopefully some lyrics from "Madcap". If you can contribute anything please do, the next issue is due out christmas.

WANTED: ANY OLD CUTTINGS/PHOTO'S E.T.C OF SYD OR PINK FLOYD.

**GIVING** pop journalists a hard time is the blood sports of groups. It's one of the occupational hazards of the job, as anyone who's ever been on the receiving end of the Beatles rapier remarks will tell you.

Last week, it was the Pink Floyd's turn, which was surprising, for their latest record "Apples And Oranges" isn't exactly setting the chart alight. Still, I managed to penetrate their initial unresponsive attitude and asked how they felt about the record bombing after "Arnold Layne" and "See Emily Play" had been so well received.

"Couldn't care less," was Syd Barrett's answer. For the Floyd don't really regard themselves as primarily a record group. Barrett is an advocate of musical anarchy. He believes that all the group can do is make a record which pleases them. If it's not commercial—too bad.



PINK FLOYD: "going through a very confusing stage"

"All we can do is make records which we like. If the kids don't, then they won't buy it." Ideally, believes Barrett, groups should record their own music, press their own records, distribute them and sell them.

He feels that the application of commercial considerations is harmful to the music. He'd like to cut out the record company and the wholesalers and retailers. "All middle men are bad," he said.

Co-manager Peter Jenner said that, anyway, the groups have far more idea of what the kids want than the record companies.

Barrett said that the reason the kids dig the Beatles and Mick Jagger is not so much

because of their music, but because they always do what they want to do and to hell with everyone else. "That's why the kids dig them—because they do what they want. The kids know this."

I met Barrett and guitarist Roger Waters with managers Jenner and Andrew King at the Central Office of Information in Lambeth. They had been viewing a colour film insert of the group for a magazine programme on Britain networked across America and Canada.

The number they filmed was "Jug Band Blues," written by Barrett which manager Jenner said he had wanted to release as their single instead of "Apples And Oranges." He said he was

pressing for it to be their next single in the New Year.

It is almost a poetic recitation by Barrett, with avant garde sound effects by the group. The centre passage is almost free form pop, with six members of the Salvation Army on the recording session told to "play what you like."

After the filming, we retired to a nearby coffee bar where Jenner said: "The group has been through a very confusing stage over the past few months and I think this has been reflected in their work."

"You can't take four people of this mental level — they used to be architects, an artist and even an educational cyberneticist—give them big success and not expect them to get confused.

"But they are coming through a sort of de-confusing period now. They are not just a record group. They really pull people in to see them and their album has been terrifically received in this country and America. I think they've got a lot of tremendous things ahead of them. They are really only just starting."

The Floyds enter into the pop arena was as a psychedelic group. They came in on the surge of lights and psychedelia which is dwindling rapidly today. Were they still using lights or had they made any decision to abandon them?

"Not at all, said Roger Waters. "With us, lights were not, and are not, a gimmick. We believe that a good light show enhances the music. Groups who adopted lights as a gimmick are now being forced to drop them, but there's no reason why we should."

"In this country, groups were forced to provide their own light shows, whereas in the States, it was the clubs who provided the lights."

"Really," said Barrett, "we have only just started to scrape the surface of effects and ideas of lights and music combined; we think that the music and the lights are part of the same scene, one enhances and adds to the other."

"But we feel that in the future, groups are going to have to offer much more than just a pop show. They'll have to offer a well-presented theatre show." — ALAN WALSH.

**UFO**  
**PINK FLOYD**

Films — lights — raids —  
subversives — 31 Totl. Crl Road.  
10.30-1. Members (10s.) and  
their guests (15s.) only.

WHYVERDINGE JAZZBAND.

M M WIZIKZ