

IT IS OBVIOUS

BY SYD BARRETT

IT IS OBVIOUS MAY I SAY
O BABY THAT IT IS FOUND ON ANOTHER
PLANE YES I CAN CREEP INTO CUPBOARDS
SLEEP IN THE HALL MAY I SAY OH BABY

YOUR STARS, MY STARS A SIMPLE LOT BARS
ONLY AN IMPULSE, PIE IN THE SKY

MUMMY LISTEN DOLLY DRIFT OVER.
YOUR MIND CREEP INTO BED WHEN YOUR
HEAD'S ON THE GROUND SHE HELD A
TORCH ON THE PORCH, SHE WINKED AN EYE
REASON IT IS WRITTEN ON THE BRAMBLES
STRANDED ON THE SPIKES
BLOOD-RED O LISTEN REMEMBER THOSE
TIMES I COULD CALL WITH A CLEAR DAY,
TIME AND YOU CAN BE THERE

BRAYER AND BRAVER A HANDKERCHIEF WAYER
THE LOUDER YOUR LIPS TO A LOUD HAILER
ONE WONDERING STUMBLING,
FUMBLING, RUMBLING MINDS SHOT TOGETHER,
OUR MINDS SHOT TOGETHER
SO EQUALLY OVER A VALLEY A HILL
QUARRY STOOD EACH OF US CRYING
A VELVET CURTAIN OF GREY MARK THE
BLANKET WHERE SPARROWS PLAY
AND THE TREES BY THE WAVING CORN
STRANDED MY LEGS MOVE THE LAST
EMPTY INCHES TO YOU
THE SOFTNESS, THE WARMTH
AND THE WEATHER IN SUSPENSE
MOG TO A GAG THE SKY IS LIKE CHALK
MINDS SHOT TOGETHER
OUR MINDS SHOT TOGETHER.

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EDITORS LETTER,

FIRSTLY SOME NEWS OF SYD,
I RECENTLY MET SYD BY CHANCE WALKING
DOWN A LONDON SIDE STREET,
PLUS MY ATTEMPTS AT COMMUNICATING
WITH HIM MET WITH AN ALMOST TOTAL NEGATIVE
RESPONSE.

THE ONLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM SYD
WAS WHEN I ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE
MAGAZINE AND SOCIETY. . . . O.K WAS THE REPLY!

AT LEAST ABOVE ALL ELSE YOU WILL
ALL BE PLEASED TO KNOW SYD IS PHYSICALLY
VERY HEALTHY.

THE RE-PACKAGED "MADCAP LAUGHS/BARRETT"
SET IS NOW AVAILABLE ON IMPORT AND NEXT MONTH
AVAILABLE HERE THE INSIDE COVER FEATURES A
DISPLAY OF OVER 50 PHOTOS OF SYD.

ANOTHER RE-PACKAGED L.P IS THE
IMPORT PREVIOUSLY TITLED "THE BEST OF PINK FLOYD"
NOW UNDER THE TITLE "ROCK MASTERS"
IT FEATURES RIGHTLY THE FLOYD WITH SYD ON
THE COVER WHICH IS IN COLOUR.

TERRAPIN MAGAZINE HAS NOW BEEN
REDUCED BY 8 PAGES AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE
TO RUDID INCREASING THE COVER PRICE,
THE PRINTERS MISCALCULATED THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE
OF COSTS BY ONE HUNDRED PER CENT, THUS TO
HAVE KEPT THE MAGAZINE AT TWENTY PAGES WE
WOULD HAVE HAD TO CHARGE 10^p COVER PRICE PER COPY.

A LETTER FROM FOUNDER MEMBER
LAWRENCE HIMELFIELD.

DEAR BERNARD,

FIRST OF ALL LET ME COMPLIMENT YOU
ON DESTROYING THE SYD BARRETT APPRECIATION
SOCIETY AND FOR MAKING A TOTAL BALLS UP
OF EVERYTHING. LETS GET ONE THING RIGHT
BERNARD—YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THE EDITOR
OF TERRAPIN—FAR FROM IT; I WAS NOT TOLD
OF THIS OR EVEN ASKED ME WHETHER YOU
COULD BE.

WHEN I THINK OF THE S.B.R.S NOW
IT UPSETS ME, BECAUSE IT HAS ENDED UP EVERYTHING
WHICH JOHN STEEL AND I HAD NOT PLANNED.

THE WHOLE MYTH HAS DIED;
AND IT DIED WHEN YOU CAME INTO THE SCENE.

REMEMBER ONE THING, AND THAT
IS THE FACT THAT I WAS THE ORIGINAL FOUNDER
MEMBER OF THE S.B.A.S, AND THEREFORE IT IS MY
DECISION WHAT HAPPENS AND HOW MAGAZINES
SHOULD LOOK, OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE AT
ALL PRINTED.

YOUR SELFISHNESS AND GREED
HAS OVERLOOKED THIS.

I SHALL LET YOU PUT OUT ONE MORE
TERRAPIN; FOR WHICH I SHALL WRITE AN
ARTICLE MYSELF. . . . THEN THAT IS IT.

SO IF YOU PERSIST IN CARRYING
ON MY SELF INVENTED MYTH.
THEN I SHALL TAKE EVERY ACTION I CAN
AGAINST YOU FOR DOING SO.

I DONT KNOW REALLY WHAT PAUL
AND NIGEL WILL THINK. I HAVE TRIED TO
TELL THEM WHAT I NOW THINK BUT THEY
DIDNT TAKE ANY NOTICE OF MY WORDS.

— Long live Syd
(leave him to himself)

Yours L. Himelfield.

COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ON THIS LETTER
PLEASE SEND TO THE EDITOR,
DO YOU WANT TERRAPIN TO STOP?

PART 2 OF THE SYD BARRETT INTERVIEW

HOW IMPORTANT ARE LYRICS TO YOU?

"VERY IMPORTANT. I THINK IT'S GOOD IF A SONG HAS MORE THAN ONE MEANING. MAYBE THAT KIND OF SONG CAN REACH FAR MORE PEOPLE, THAT'S NICE. ON THE OTHER HAND I LIKE SONGS THAT ARE SIMPLE, I LIKED 'ARNOLD LAYNE' BECAUSE TO ME IT WAS A VERY CLEAR SONG."

SOME OF YOUR WORDS DON'T COME OVER TOO CLEARLY LIKE ON 'OCTOPUS' 'THERE'S LITTLE MINNIE CANN, COUGHS AND CLEARS HIS THROAT' HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT PRINTING THE WORDS ON THE SLEEVE NEXT TIME?

"YEAH THAT WOULD BE NICE, (LAUGHING) THAT WAS 'LITTLE MINUTE GONG' "

WHAT ABOUT 'OCTOPUS' THAT WAS MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE?

"I CARRIED THAT AROUND IN MY HEAD FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS BEFORE I ACTUALLY WROTE IT SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT CAME OUT SO WELL. THE IDEA WAS LIKE THOSE NUMBER SONGS LIKE 'GREEN GROW THE RUSHES HO' WHERE YOU HAVE SAY TWELVE LINES EACH RELATED TO THE NEXT AND AN OVERALL THEME.

IT'S LIKE A FOOL-

"PROOF COMBINATION OF LYRICS REALLY AND THEN THE CHORUS COMES IN AND CHANGES THE TEMPO BUT HOLDS THE WHOLE THING TOGETHER."

THERE'S A STRONG CHILDHOOD FEEL TO A LOT OF YOUR SONGS WITH LOTS OF FAIRY-TALE AND NURSERY-RHyme ELEMENTS, HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF WRITING FOR KIDS?

"FAIRYTALES ARE NICE I THINK A LOT OF IT HAS TO DO WITH LIVING IN CAMBRIDGE WITH NATURE AND EVERYTHING, IT'S SO CLEAN AND I STILL DRIVE BACK A LOT."

"IF I'D STAYED AT COLLEGE I WOULD HAVE BECOME A TEACHER. LEAVING SCHOOL AND SUDDENLY BEING WITHOUT THAT STRUCTURE AROUND YOU AND NOTHING TO RELATE TO MAYBE THAT'S A PART OF IT TOO."

THERE WAS A STRANGE SCIENCE-FICTION THING IN THE EARLY FLOYD, WERE YOU INTO THAT?

"NOT REALLY, EXCEPT 'JOURNEY INTO SPACE' AND 'QUATERMASS' WHICH WAS WHEN I WAS ABOUT FIFTEEN, SO THAT COULD BE WHERE IT CAME FROM."

YOUR LYRICS COULD BE DESCRIBED AS SURREALISTIC COLLAGES, DID YOUR ART TRAINING AFFECT YOUR WRITTING?

"ONLY THE RATE OF WORK, LEARNING TO WORK HARD. I DO TEND TO TAKE LINES FROM OTHER THINGS, LINES I LIKE, AND THEN WRITE AROUND THEM BUT I DON'T CONSCIOUSLY RELATE TO PAINTING. IT'S JUST WRITTING GOOD SONGS THAT MATTERS REALLY."

DO YOU STILL PAINT?

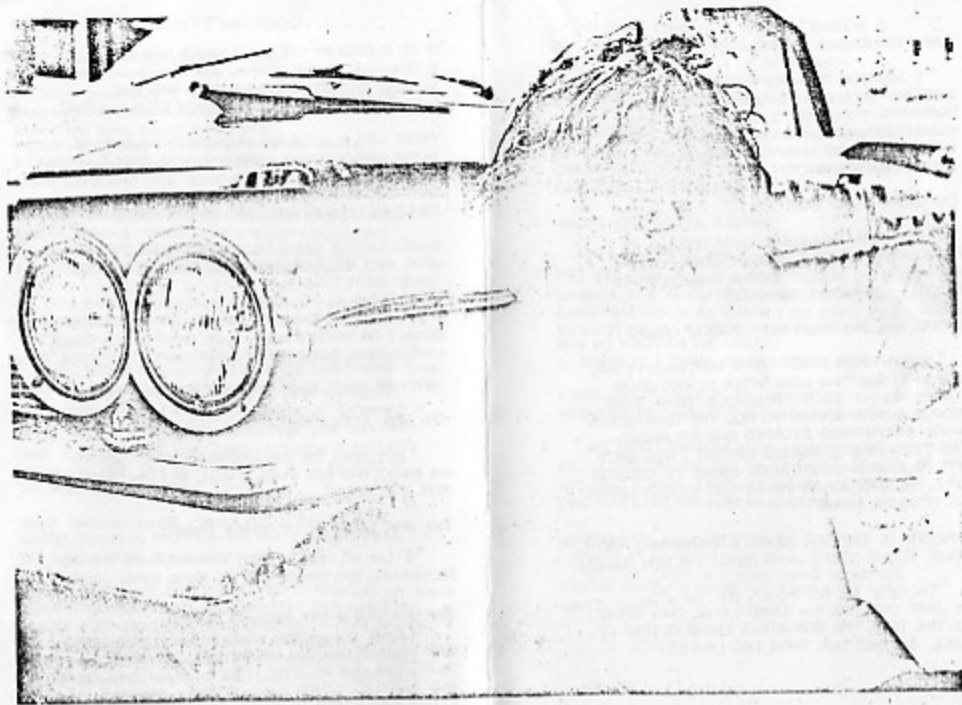
"NOT MUCH, THE GUY WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR TO ME PAINTS, AND HE'S DOING IT WELL, SO I DON'T REALLY FEEL THE NEED."

DO YOU WANT TO DO OTHER THINGS?

"A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE FILMS AND DO PHOTOGRAPHS AND THINGS, BUT I'M QUITE HAPPY GOING WHAT I'M DOING."

ARE YOU INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSIC?

"I DON'T REALLY BUY MANY RECORDS, THERE'S SO MUCH AROUND THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO LISTEN TO. ALL I'VE GOT AT HOME IS BO DIDDLEY SOME STONES AND BEATLES STUFF AND OLD JAZZ RECORDS. I LIKE FAMILY, THEY DO SOME NICE THINGS."



WHAT ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND?

"I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE ARTS LAB OR ANYTHING SO I DONT KNOW REALLY WHAT'S HAPPENING. THERE ARE JUST SO MANY PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND DOING DIFFERENT THINGS AND NO KIND OF UNITY. IT DOESNT REALLY BOTHER ME"

DO YOU READ POETRY?

"I'VE GOT PENGUINS LYING AROUND AT HOME, SHAKESPEARE AND CHAUCER, YOU KNOW? BUT I DONT REALLY READ A LOT. MAYBE I SHOULD."

WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH MADCAP LAUGHS?

"YES I LIKED WHAT CAME OUT, ONLY IT WAS RELEASED FAR TOO LONG AFTER IT WAS DONE. I WANTED IT TO BE A WHOLE THING THAT PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN TO ALL THE WAY THROUGH WITH EVERYTHING RELATED AND BALANCED, THE TEMPOS AND MOODS OFFSETTING EACH OTHER, AND I HOPE THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE. I'VE GOT IT AT HOME BUT I DONT LISTEN TO IT MUCH NOW."

MADCAP IS RATHER GENTLE COMPARED WITH YOUR FLOYD STUFF, WHAT ABOUT THE NEW ALBUM?

"THERE'LL BE ALL KINDS OF THINGS. IT JUST DEPENDS ON WHAT I FEEL LIKE DOING AT THE TIME. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT IT WILL BE BETTER THAN THE LAST."

IN "NO MAN'S LAND" ON "MADCAP" THERE'S A LONG SPOKEN PART WHICH IS BARELY AUDIBLE, LIKE 'THE FADED' LYRICS OF 'ASTROMINIE DOMINE', WAS THE INTENTION TO ABSTRACT THE WORDS INTO JUST BACKGROUND NOISE?

"ORIGINALLY THE WORDS WERE MENT TO BE HEARD CLEARLY, BUT WE WENT AND ACTUALLY DID IT, THAT'S HOW IT CAME OUT, WHICH WASN'T REALLY HOW I'D PLANNED IT."

HOW'S THE GUITAR PLAYING?

"I ALWAYS WRITE WITH GUITAR. I'VE GOT THIS BIG ROOM AND I JUST GO IN AND DO THE WORK. I LIKE TO DO THE WORDS AND MUSIC SIMULTANEOUSLY SO WHEN I GO INTO THE STUDIO I'VE GOT THE WORDS ON ONE SIDE AND MY MUSIC ON THE OTHER. I SUPPOSE I COULD DO WITH SOME PRACTICE."

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE, ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO SINGING AND PLAYING AGAIN?

"YES THAT WOULD BE NICE, I USED TO ENJOY IT. IT WAS A GAS, BUT SO IS DOING NOTHING. IT'S ART SCHOOL LAZINESS REALLY. I'VE GOT THIS WEMBLEY GIG AND ANOTHER THING IN SUMMER."

WHAT ABOUT FORMING A BAND?

"I'LL BE GETTING SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR THE WEMBLEY THING AND THEN JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENS."

AND NOW?

"I'M WORKING ON THE ALBUM. THERE'S FOUR TRACKS IN THE CAN ALREADY AND IT SHOULD BE OUT ABOUT SEPTEMBER.

THERE ARE NO SET MUSICIANS, JUST PEOPLE HELPING OUT LIKE ON "MADCAP" WHICH GIVES ME FAR MORE FREEDOM IN WHAT I WANT TO DO.....

I FEEL AS IF I'VE GOT LOTS OF THINGS, MUCH BETTER THINGS TO DO STILL.....

THAT'S WHY THERE ISN'T REALLY A LOT TO SAY, I JUST WANT TO GET IT ALL DONE.....

(THE END)

SYD BARRETT: "Terrapin" (from the Harvest LP, "The Madcap Laughs," part of which was produced by Roger).

(Laughs). This is a track I didn't produce because it didn't need anything doing to it. This song makes everything else you have played me look completely sick and silly. I think this is very beautiful. Don't take it off, I'm going to listen to it all the way through. I think that is a great song. In fact all the songs on this album are great. No, some of them on it are great—in capital letters—and all of them are good. Syd is a genius.



(TALKING ABOUT SYD)
Floyd singer ROGER WATERS



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ANOTHER LETTER FROM NICK MOBB'S

DEAR PAUL, 15TH MAY 1974
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER CONCERNING SYD BARRETT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF WE WERE TO RE-LEASE ANOTHER SYD BARRETT ALBUM USING TAPES FROM 1964 ROAD ARCHIVES, IT WOULD BE AN INSULT TO SYD AS THE MAJORITY OF THE UNRELEASED MATERIAL IS DIABOLICAL WITH REGARD TO THE FLOYD TRICKS "VEGETABLE MAN" AND "SCREAM". WE DO NOT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO TRACE THESE TITLES IN OUR TAPES LIBRARY. WITH REGARD TO YOUR QUERY CONCERNING THE GERMAN RELEASES (SEE TERRAPIN B-PUL) I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THESE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY UNRELEASED MATERIAL. AS YOU WILL PROBABLY KNOW, WE ARE RE-PACKAGING THE TWO SOLD ALBUMS ALONG THE LINES OF "A NICE PAIR" AND THESE WILL BE RELEASED UNDER THE TITLE "TERRAPIN" AROUND SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. AMERICA IS ALSO RELEASING THE MCKOY AND THEY ARE AIMING FOR A JULY RELEASE.
YOURS SINCERELY, NICK MOBB'S (HARVEST LABEL MANAGER)