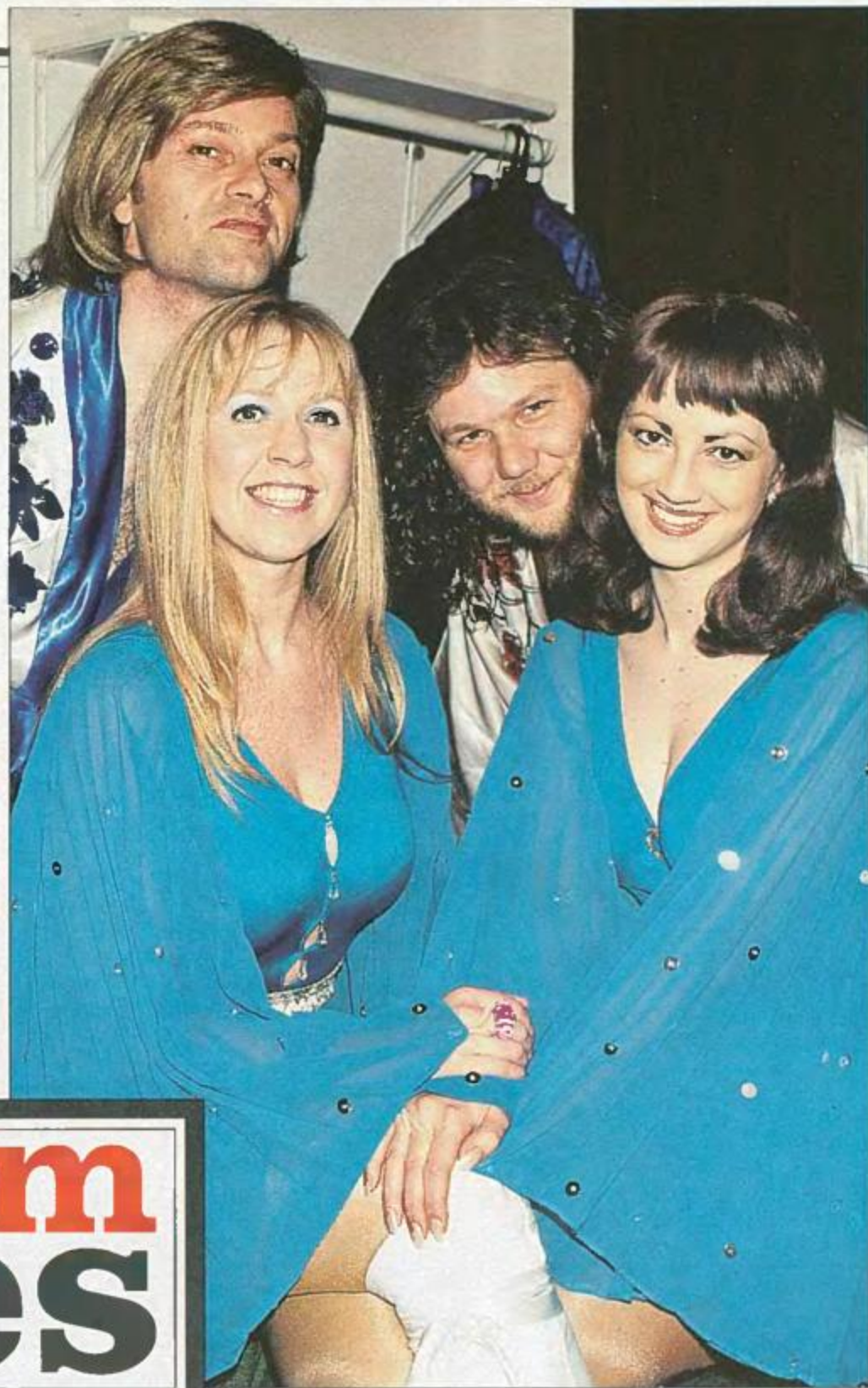




Been-there-done-that chanteuse Marianne Faithfull (right) rubbed shoulders with ex-Talking Heads bassist Tina Weymouth after Faithfull's New York gig at the Supper Club. Faithfull performed the rich cabaret music of Germany's Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, which she has recorded on the recent *20th Century Blues*. Says Faithfull of her attraction to Weimar-era material: "It's a very skeptical attitude toward life, which is always a good thing to have. It's not naive, golly-gee-gosh kind of music."

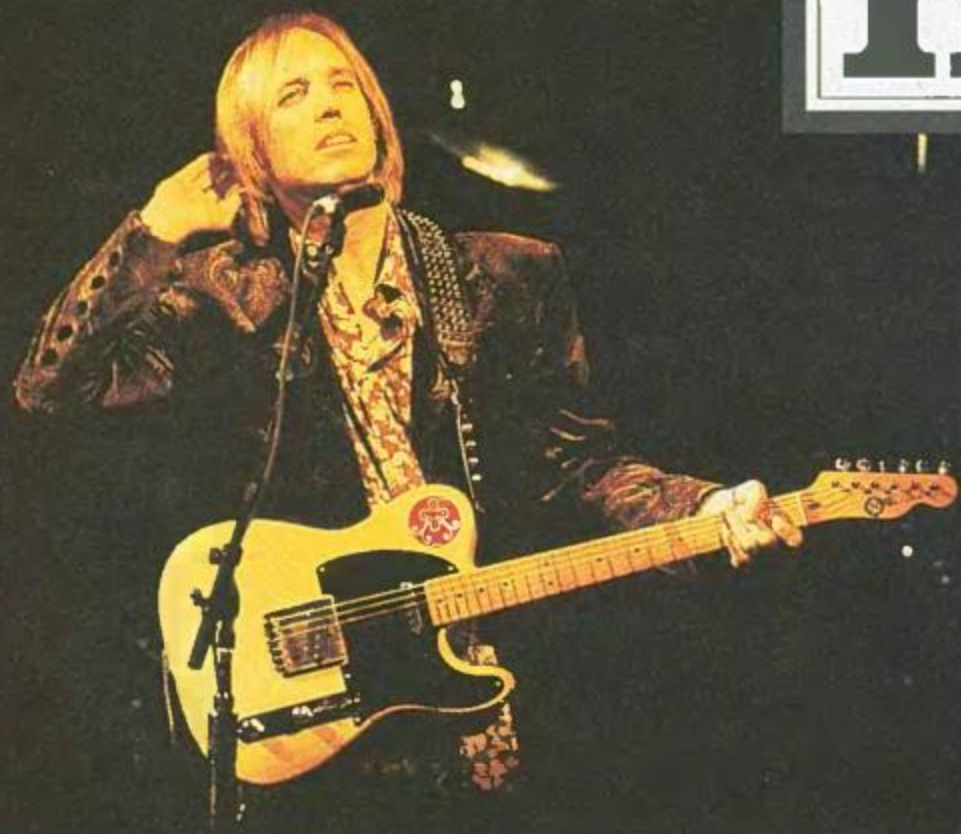
From the note-perfect vocals on "Fernando" to the faux-Swedish accents and sequined duds, ABBA copycats BJÖRN AGAIN'S final U.S. date, at New York's Irving Plaza, was fabulously flawless. The only odd moment came when the ladies left the stage and keyboardist BENNY ANDERWEAR broke into BLACK SABBATH's "Paranoid." "We love playing the songs we play — let's get that straight," says guitarist BJÖRN VOLVO-US. "But there are times when Benny and I like to let the wild side loose." Amen.

Anderwear, Agnetha Falstart, Volvo-us and Frida Longstokin (from left)



SHERYL OLSON/MAZUR

Random notes



JAY BLAKESBERG

An enthusiastic Petty says, "I'm real excited. I've never heard the group sound better."

Evidently, TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS aren't afraid of commitment. Staging 20 shows in 30 days at San Francisco's Fillmore, they treated fans to an extended free-for-all: different sets every night, kooky covers ("Goldfinger," from the James Bond movie), and special guests like CARL PERKINS and JOHN LEE HOOKER. "I wanted to get away from the land of videos and records for a while," says Petty. "We've made so many over the last five years, the best thing to do is just go out and play."



KARL CRUTCHFIELD

Pepa, Spinderella and Salt (from left) at She Things

I got worked over, boy — I mean, everything from my hair and nails to a massage," reports DEIDRE ROPER (SALT-N-PEPA'S SPINDERELLA). She's speaking of the hiring process for the beauty pros at She Things, her new salon, in New York's Queens. "I had to audition the people I hired," she says. Not that Roper is spending all her time having bikini waxes — her solo record, *Spinderella's Ball*, is due this spring. "It's scary," she says. "But I'll still be with Salt-n-Pepa."



RICK DIAMOND

Silverchair: Ben Gillies, Chris Joannou and Johns (from left)

Many a heart (and curfew) was broken when 1,000 SILVERCHAIR fans piled into Atlanta's Blockbuster Music for a midnight in-store. "It's a bit weird," says singer DANIEL JOHNS. "People start talking to you, and the managers are like, 'Move along.'" The boys had one other wee problem. "We forgot all our CDs!" laments Johns. Afterward they picked up discs by BLACK FLAG, LOCAL H and CHEMICAL BROTHERS. Seems they know NIRVANA by heart.