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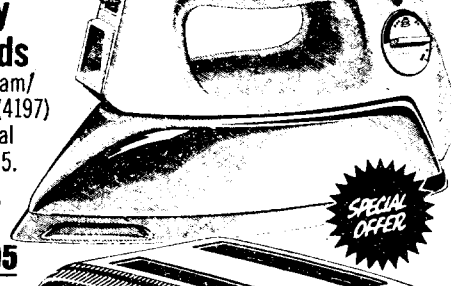
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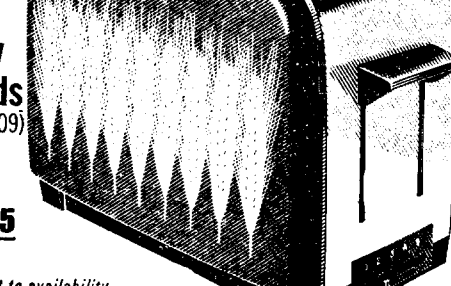


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Saturday

HAPPY

☆ AMERICAN rock singer **Ton Petty** wasn't in the least put out when he and his group, the Heartbreakers, were asked to join today's **Knebworth Festival** after **Jeff Beck** pulled out.

"We really owe the kids here a show" he said, "although a festival is not really my favourite gig. A lot of people can't see properly and we'll be playing in daylight which will seem kind of weird.

"But I'm quite sure that everything will be great.
 "Hopefully we'll be back in the autumn to do a full tour - but

☆ **IGAL BASHAN** may be a new name to you but in Israel, he's their top pop singer. **Igal**, 28, has been over here to promote his first album for Ariola - "You Got The Power," released earlier this month.

With 23 top singles and nine top albums in Israel, **Igal** hopes he'll make a break-through in Britain.

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SO NEW TO PERU

☆ **LOVELY** **Jenny Hanley** leaves for the land of king-size spiders on Monday - and she's terrified.

Off to Peru with the "Magpie" crew **Jenny** has done her homework with a little help from Britain's best-known Peruvian, comedian **Michael Bentine**.

"When I rang him last week," said **Jenny**, "he gave me lots of advice about his homeland but scared me with tales about spiders the size of your hand."

"Magpie's" annual summer expedition will be screened when the programme returns this autumn.

JENNY HANLEY
 Scared of spiders.



Blazing the old country trail

☆ **THE** **Frank Jennings** Syndicate thought it was like taking coals to Newcastle when they were invited to play their brand of country music in Nashville, Tennessee.

But the six British lads, based in Reading, needn't have worried.

They set the audience alight at the American Music City's 1978 Fan Fair.

Rush

As we sipped a drink in the Hyatt Regency hotel in Nashville, **Frank** told me: "On the way here we missed our connection in Dallas, so everything was a bit of a rush and I didn't have time to be nervous until I went on stage.

"Then I realised where we were and what we were doing. And it really hit me. But the fans were great."

The Syndicate were the first British group to play in the international show, which was hosted by top American stars **Charley Pride** and **Tammy Wynette**.

On the bill were artists from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia and Finland.

Country Music Association executive director, **Mrs. Jo Walker**, who chooses the international acts, said: "The boys were great. And they have certainly opened up the way for other British groups to come here."

SHOW page

REPORTERS:
PAULINE McLEOD, TOM
MERRIN, KEN TOSSELL, JIM
SEDDON and JACK LEWIS

HEARTBREAK

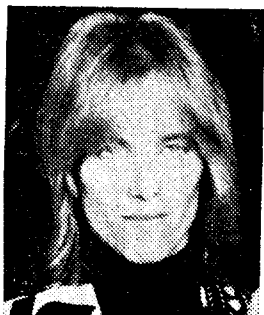
nothing is definite yet." Petty, who is 25, and the group arrived in London this week from Canada where they have just completed part of a North American tour.

They recorded a "special" for the BBC's Old Grey Whistle Test, then started to prepare for today's festival where they are number three on the bill.

Next week they may appear on "Top of the Pops" with their single, "I Need To Know."

Petty and his four Heartbreakers all come from Gainesville, Florida—a little swamp town whose main claim to fame is its alligators—but they didn't get together until 1976.

"It gets people a little confused," he said.



TOM PETTY
Daylight is weird

"We didn't hang out together back home and it wasn't until I'd been in Los Angeles for five years that we met up. Two days after we got together we went

into the studio, wrote the tracks for an album in an afternoon and it was cut and mixed within a fortnight.

"Everything clicked. It was the first time I'd really worked with a group."

They played more than 200 dates in the States and Europe last year, then went back to the studio to work on their new album, released a few weeks ago, called "You're Gonna Get It."

"This time we spent four months on it. We wrote about twenty numbers then whittled them down to ten.

"Everything is going like crazy for us now.

"But I feel we've only scratched the surface of what we can do. This is just the beginning."

TELEVISION chiefs in Britain are pushing each other sideways to sign some autumn dates with diminutive American singer Helen Schneider.

Helen who? Well, no one here knew a thing about the girl until she took over the London jazz Mecca, Ronnie Scotts, earlier this month for just one night to show "the business" what she could do.

There the 25-year-old from Pomona, New York State, demonstrated a punchy impressive voice that has been cultivated in seven years of touring every possible date in the States.

Helen had a background of classical music which has been sandblasted with the blues of people such as Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith and the rock sounds she listened to as a teenager.

Now Helen reckons she is ready for

A big hello for Helen

Britain. "For the past couple of years I have been breaking into Germany," she said. "I'm planning to invade Britain around September." The invasion, like her new RCA album "Let It Be Now," should be worth waiting for.



HELEN SCHNEIDER: punchy voice



THE BOOMTOWN RATS: one of the hottest properties around.

Picture: MIKE MALONEY

Why Irish Rats are smiling

THE Boomtown Rats are one of the most exciting and popular of Britain's New Wave bands — impressive, successful and loved by their fans.

But back home in Ireland it's a different story. "There is hardly a venue there that we can play," said the band's keyboard player Johnnie Fingers.

"If it's not local councils and theatre managers who block us it's the showband Mafia.

"To them we are unknown — and a threat to their business.

"If we are lucky enough to get a date we find that the showbands have put on the pressure and it gets cancelled."

Last week, however, with the sort of luck that the six-man band, and their fans, have come NOT to expect,

the Rats returned to Dublin. With two concerts in a battered Victorian theatre that is usually the setting for pantomime, the band happily and deafeningly, proved those Irish promoters and theatre bosses who have been keeping them out have been passing up one of the hottest properties around.

They are now on a four-day week British tour which—coupled with a new single "Like Clockwork" and an

album "A Tonic For The Troops"—should give them top-pegging in the New Wave.

"Like Clockwork" has made its chart entry at No. 26 and it looks as if there's nothing around that can possibly prevent it making the Top Ten within the next few weeks.

The tour, which ends on July 9 with a show at London's Hammer-smith Odeon, will certainly do it no harm.

PLEASE SHED NO TEARS

AND now for something straight out of the It Had To Happen department.

A new film opening in London next week stars Christiane Kruger, pretty daughter of German actor Hardy Kruger.

She appears as a girl from the slums who rises to become the wife of her country's dictator.

Marina Pinares—that's the name of the character—becomes a small-time actress, a general's mistress and the most powerful woman in the land.

Rape

Then she is told she is dying of cancer.

Anxious to keep her husband in power Marina, who can look back on a very full life of rape, torture and gang bangs, tries to arrange for her own canonisation by the Catholic church.

The title of this German-produced, familiar-sounding little epic? "Don't Cry For Me Little Mother."



CHRISTIANE KRUGER
Slums to riches.

Newie for Hughie

HUGHIE GREEN, who was none too pleased when his "Opportunity Knocks" came off in March after sixteen years, will be back promoting new talent on TV next month.

But for just one show. He will be a special guest in the second of a new ITV series of Sunday night spectaculars "Paul Daniels' Blackpool Bonanza."

He will introduce opera singer Niall Murray and two other young artists.

Johnny Hamp, Granada's head of light entertainment, said: "Every week we will have a spot for acts who have not been over-exposed on TV."

He added: "I think Hughie has done a bloody good job over the years to give unknown artists a chance."