



The Reactions are ready to release an EP.

Hey, let's have a big hand, folks, for little records

Nu-disks, those cute little 10-inch "alternative LPs" keep on trickling out, and one has finally emerged to justify all the hype about what great bargains they are.

The Clash's *Black Market Clash* is a phenomenal exercise in generosity. Where previous Nu-Disks contained four songs and averaged about 13-14 minutes in length, *Black Market* has nine songs and runs over 34 minutes. By Nu-Disk standards, that's like cramming 55-60 minutes of material on each side of a regular LP. With sides running 17:16 and 17:06, *Black Market* could easily have been released as a full-scale album.

So, alright. Let's give the Clash and Epic Records a hand.

The quality of these 34 minutes is a somewhat different story, however. Eight of the numbers are from singles not released in the U.S., and one is a new song. All are worthwhile, especially for Clash fanatics, but most seem to lack the intensity and assurance of front-line Clash — which is no doubt why they're surfacing on a Nu-Disk.

The weakest cut is *Time Is Tight*, a Booker T. Jones cover. The Clash do such an uncharacteristically bland version of the song that if one didn't know this was the Clash, one might...never guess.

Making up for that, however, are a couple of good cuts on side one, and nearly all of the reggae-dominated side two. The second side includes the group's latest British single, *Bankrobber*, plus a hefty dose of "dub" material, where lead singer Joe Strummer raps and rants over reggae-flavored instrumental tracks.

The record is not even close to the quality of any of the Clash's three LPs, but as a group of collector's items, it's a solid success. And the generous length makes *Black Market* the first Nu-Disk that is truly worthwhile.

Fort Lauderdale's own Heat Wave/Woodstock, the free, Open Books and Records-sponsored concert last Saturday at Progresso Plaza, proved to be more than just the promised "3 Hours of Peace, Love And Music." It was actually closer to 3 hours and 50 minutes of the good stuff.

Opening act was the Preview, most of which I missed, due to tragic miscalculation. I figured any event scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. would surely not start until 4 or so. But no. Add "honesty" to "peace, love, etc." They started at 3, by God. I did catch two Preview songs, and can only say that they sounded promising.

Next up were the lean and hungry Essentials, who turned in a fine set of mostly originals. Two numbers in particular stood out, a cover of Count Five's timeless *Psychotic Reaction* and the finale, which the group's female singer howled her way through quite convincingly.



...while the Clash is cashing in on success with its Nu-disk.



Cameron Cohick

Rock/Pop

The Eat came very close to closing the show. They did essentially the same set they've been doing lately — all seven of their on-record songs, a few other originals, plus *Woolly Bully* and *L.A. Woman*. They changed pace a little with a "wet T-shirt" contest, in which three gray shirts were pulled dripping from a water bucket for the crowd's perusal.

The Eat was just about ready to finish things off with *Mr. Suit* when the Fort Lauderdale police decided to close the show themselves. It seems that Open had been told they needed no permit for the show, when in fact they did. One cop said that would have been fine, anyway, as long as there were no complaints.

Unfortunately, there were "three or four," he said, so they had no choice.

Resistance to this police action was minor. The show was almost over, anyway. A beer bottle was thrown, or dropped, the cops looked threatening, and that was it. So, fortunately, the early close was no big deal, and the possibility of future shows at Progresso looks reasonably rosy.

By all indications, the "fest" was a success. Two hundred to 300 people seemed to be milling about most of the afternoon. Lots of local luminaries were there, including members of the Cichlids, The Eggs, The Roll 'n' Pinz, The Screamin' Sneakers, plus a few disreputable media types.

Nobody got hurt. The sun was shining. Babies were dancing. What more could you ask for?

Some interesting things have been developing on the local scene lately.

The best news is that the Button in Fort Lauderdale is putting in a "New Wave Night" every Monday on a permanent basis. Credit the turnout for The Eat's performance at the Button Oct. 20 for convincing the Button

management that it could work. The Eat will be back, "by popular demand," according to the Button's Crazy Gregg, for a return engagement this Monday, and The Cichlids will make their Button debut Nov. 10.

The Screamin' Sneakers have apparently had enough of trying to make their break in South Florida. They're relocating in New York after a farewell (for 1980) performance at the Agora on Election Tuesday. Sneakers' guitarist Gary Sunshine, handing out flyers at the Agora after the B-52's show, said the group's move is semi-permanent, although they will be back in Florida some time "this winter."

The Reactions, seemingly tired of waiting for some enlightened record label to sign them up, have taken matters into their own hands with a self-pressed EP. Titled *Official Release*, the four-song, 33 1/2 seven-incher should be out in South Florida around Dec. 1.

The record was financed by Californian Errol Waltzer, and will be distributed in New York and California, as well as locally. All four songs on the record are originals, written by singer Tony Suppa and guitarist Isaac Baruch, and should be familiar to Reactions' fans: *Tonight, Marianne, In Society* and *It's Our Turn Now*.

And, in the world of radio, one sad note and one heartening one. On the minus side, WSHE's ever-popular Long Jim White is leaving the station for the greener pastures of New Orleans. His last show is scheduled to be Nov. 7.

On the plus side, WLRN's "Radio Free Living Room" has been given a last-minute stay of execution. The show, dedicated to playing the sort of "from the fringes" rock 'n' roll that doesn't get aired anywhere else, completed its original 13-week run last Monday, and it looked like the end of the line. But according to Eric Moss, the show's writer and on-air personality, WLRN has decided to waive production costs and carry the show until Moss can dig up a new sponsor.

The most interesting bets for a rock 'n' roll Halloween seem to be these:

Robert Wuagneux is playing with a new edition of his band, Principles, in Key West tonight at 9 at "The Oldest House In Key West" museum.

Closer to home, The Wrap — with new bass player Louis Temisvari — will play the Balkan Rock Club in Dania. Supporting will be The Reactions and The Eat.

Tonight, Al Jarreau will be at Sunrise Musical Theater. Tomorrow night, Michael Franks will play a benefit concert at Gusman Hall in Miami for the American Cancer Society.