

music

REVOLUTION ROCK: No band has dominated 1980 like the Clash. They began the year with the amazing double album, *LONDON CALLING*, and their first U.S. hit single, "Train in Vain," then followed up with a major tour. They stayed in the news during the summer with the movie "Rude Boy." Only a few weeks ago, they issued a 10-inch bargain-priced compilation of rare tracks, *BLACK MARKET CLASH*. And suddenly here's another album — a triple set.

LONDON CALLING was considered the Clash's bid for greatness — a successful one, judging by its appearance on many best-of-the-year lists. But *SANDINISTA!* (CBS FSLN 1), a British import that will be released here the second week of January, is even more ambitious and eclectic than its predecessor.

For starters, there's "The Magnificent Seven," with a funk beat similar to that of Queen's "Another One Bites the Dust." It's like nothing the Clash have done before. The same could be said of "The Sound of the Sinners," a full-dress gospel song complete with call-and-response singing by a huge choir.

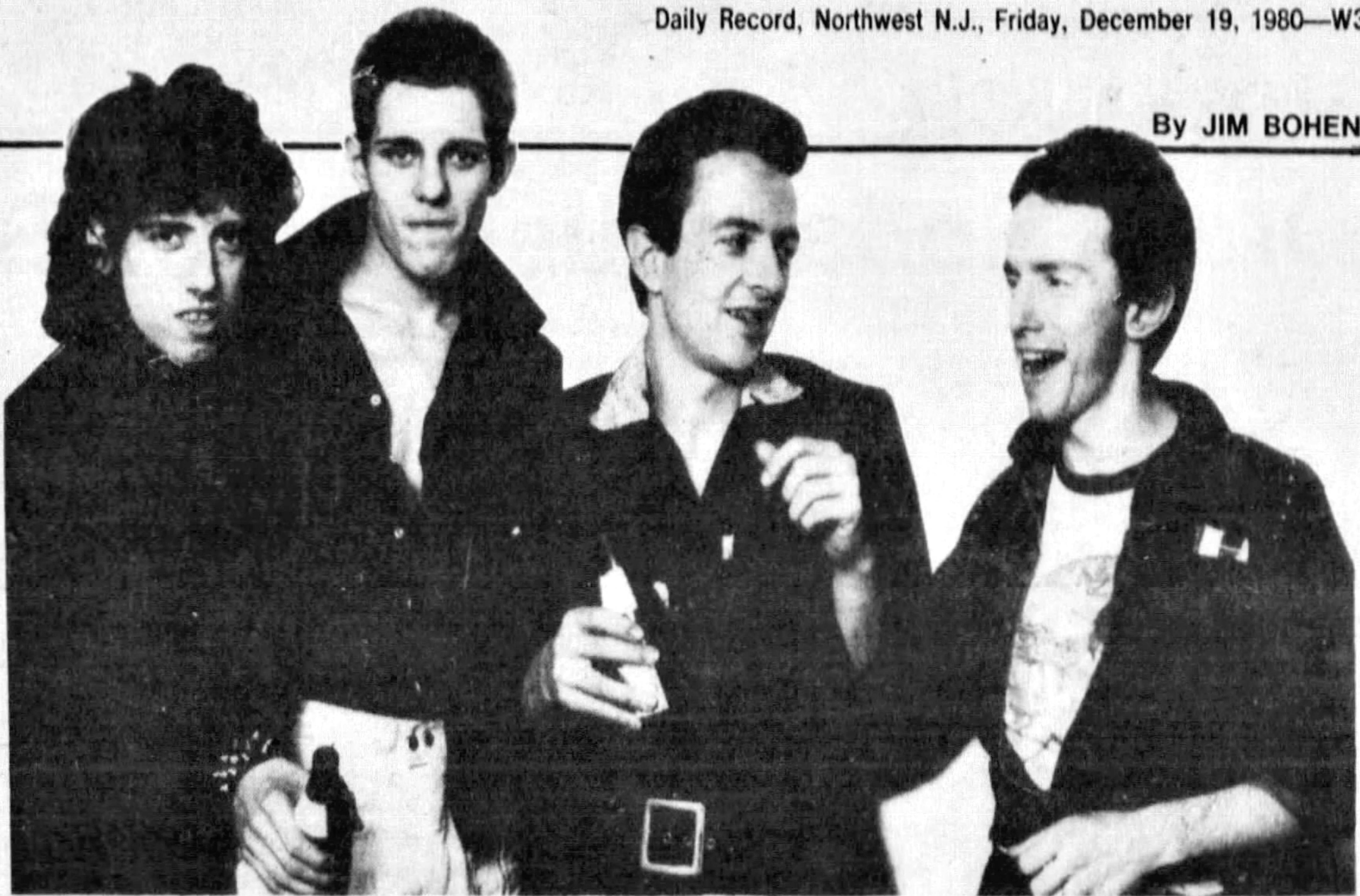
Several cuts have downright pretty tunes: "Rebel Waltz," which is just that, and "Hitsville U.K.," a tribute to the British independent record scene on which Ellen Foley, once Meat Loaf's foil on "Paradise by the Dashboard Light," shares vocals with the Clash's Joe Strummer.

For politics, try the anti-draft "The Call-Up" ("It's up to you not to heed the call-up"), or "Washington Bullets," an indictment of American intervention in Latin American revolutions. From it comes the album's title, a reference to the victorious faction in a Nicaraguan coup. "For the very first time ever . . . there was no interference from America," Strummer sings. "Well the people fought the leader and up he flew/With no Washington bullets what else could he do?"

But the album's dominant sound is reggae, especially dub reggae. The Clash have been into reggae since their first album, on which they covered Junior Murvin's "Police and Thieves." On the singles that followed *LONDON CALLING* ("Armageddon Time" and "Bankrobber," both included on *BLACK MARKET CLASH*), they started fooling around with dub reggae, in which songs are remixed to bring the bass and drums forward while the vocals and other instruments are faded in and out and altered electronically.

In a sense, this is the least convincing aspect of the Clash's recent music. For one thing, they don't reproduce the reggae rhythm very accurately. On most of their past efforts it didn't matter because they came up with a loping beat that one accepted as their version of reggae. And when that rhythm turns up here on "One More Time" it works just fine.

But when it's repeated on five or six other songs — and on the dub version of each — it's a little hard to take. The Clash don't have as much to offer in this area as they might like to think.



By JIM BOHEN

The Clash's 'Sandinista!': one release to triple your listening pleasure.

Fortunately, their advances in other areas compensate. *SANDINISTA!* is the most elaborately produced Clash album yet — and the first self-produced. They've used the studio to create a much more complex sound than is possible on stage. Mickey Gallagher, the keyboardist from Ian Dury's Blockheads, who appeared on *LONDON CALLING* and the accompanying tour, plays an even larger part on this album. Dury's sax player, David Payne, is on hand as well, as are more than a dozen other guest musicians.

The album is full of non-musical production touches as well, from radio announcers to braying churchmen. At one point we hear Gallagher's young daughter singing a few bars of "The Guns of Brixton" from *LONDON CALLING* — no children's song! — and later there is a full-length rearrangement of "Career Opportunities" from the first Clash album, sung by Gallagher's two sons.

It's impossible to sum up these three records — 36 tracks in all — in this space. I can't even make the standard argument that it should have been edited down to one or two discs, since they're offering the album at a relatively low price.

The U.S. version of *SANDINISTA!* will cost just a little more than a single album, according to Epic. Even at import prices, the album sells for less than some stores are charging for Bruce Springsteen's two-record *THE RIVER*. Either way, this album and this band are going to cast a large shadow in 1981.

ON VINYL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS: "Too Many Things on Your Mind," the first single by Grover Kemple and Za Zu Zaz, kicks off to a commanding dance beat and never loses it. Synthesizer and guitar

are overdubbed to suggest horns, and strong background voices come in to power the chorus. The B side, "I Got Rights to You," is just as good, with rhythm licks out of James Brown and a mid-song guitar-and-bass riff Sly Stone might wish he'd thought of first.

But as good as it is, the single only captures one facet of the band's music. Their show last weekend at the State Theater in Boonton was meant to introduce the record, but instead it demonstrated how much more they have to offer than just danceable funk.

Grover Kemple is capable of writing witty lyrics to a jazz instrumental, as he does on "Speedball," or transforming a dream vision into an original reggae song, as on "Jamaican Dream." Drummer Tim So-look's instrumentals "Cornucopia" and "Gone Fishin'" are pop-jazz in the manner of George Benson or Spyro Gyra. Even some of the band's funk numbers are deceptively complex: "Make It, Take It" goes through at least four different sections, including a completely unexpected flute break by John Gatti.

Kemple's showstoppers are his ballads. "In Your Eyes," a pretty, romantic number, was my favorite Zaz tune — until I heard "Laugh It Off." Kemple puts down his guitar to sing this very personal statement, and in a noisy club its most dramatic moments sometimes get swallowed up. But at this show, its crescendos and pauses intact, it really came off.

In short, these guys have a lot more going for them than two funk songs on a 45. I hope the single interests industry bigwigs to the point where they'll get to do a whole album.

showtime

By JIM BOHEN

Sam and Dave make one of their regular visits to the Stanhope House, 2 High St., Stanhope, tonight. This show may turn out to be something special, though; it's being filmed for European television. The *Blue Sparks from Hell* are at the club tomorrow and Sunday.

Beaver Brown, the Connecticut band whose single "Wild Summer Nights" was a summertime hit, perform tomorrow at the Show Place, 347 S. Salem St., Victory Gardens, along with Beau Jack. Tonight the club has the R. Russel Band, Slip Stream and Diamond Back. The Cherrys are the sole act Sunday.

Claire Reynolds, a blues singer from Long Valley, appears tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Minstrel Show Coffeehouse. The Basic Blues Band, a guitar-dobro duo consisting of Gordie Ferris and Pete Hurt, will open. The coffeehouse is located at the Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road (Route 24), Mendham.

Andy Statman, a bluegrass mandolinist turned jazzman, who appeared in the movie "The King of the Gypsies," leads his quartet Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Upsala College Chapel, Prospect Street and Springdale Avenue, East Orange.

Margret Taylor and Splat perform tonight at the Townhouse off the Green, 42 Washington Ave., Morristown. Tomorrow they're at Freddy's Restaurant, Olcott Square, Bernardsville.

Brass Ring are a brass quintet from the Philadelphia area who perform the music of composers from Bach to Ger-shwin. They appear in a special holiday program Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Pax Amicus Church Theater, 191 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Flanders.

Grover Kemple and Za Zu Zaz appear tonight and tomorrow at the Sheraton Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights.

Beatlemagic, a Beatles lookalike and soundalike band, perform a tribute to John Lennon Sunday at Rockpile, Route 206, Stanhope.

Nona Hendryx was once one-third of Labelle; more recently, she sang backup on the Talking Heads' *REMAIN IN LIGHT* album and in some of their concerts. She does a solo show tonight at the Paramount Theater, 560 Bay St., Staten Island, N.Y., along with the Article. Tomorrow the club has Blue Angel and the Locals.

Joan Jett, a Suzi Quatro-ish singer who once fronted the Runaways and now has her own band, the Blackhearts, appears tomorrow at Englander's, 1425 N. Broad St., Hillside. Justin Trouble will open. SVT, the San Francisco band led by former Jefferson Airplane bassist Jack Casady, are there Sunday.

Rockabilly revivalist Robert Gordon performs Sunday at the Fast Lane, Fourth and Kingsley, Asbury Park, along

with the Bangs. The Colors are there tonight. Tomorrow the club has the B-Girls, who do a guest shot on Blondie's *AUTOAMERICAN*, and whose own album is being produced by Deborah Harry. The Vacations will open.

CLUB CORNER

Dizzy Duncan's, Morris County Mall, Cedar Knolls (539-5086): The Act, Fri.; Molly Cribb, Sat.; Southern Cross, Sun.; Eyez, Tue.; Badlands, Wed.; Blue Emerald, Thu.

Final Exam, Sussex Turnpike, Randolph (895-3243): Holme, Fri.; Trigger, Sat.; Sam the Band, Sun.; Molly Cribb, Tue.; Sam the Band, Thu.

Governor's Inn, 24 Lakeside Blvd., Hopatcong (398-2091): The Touchables, Fri.; Rivendell, Sat.; Gashouse Gang, Mon.; Hilltop Inn, Gillens Road, Montville (227-9829): Hat Trick, Fri., Sat.

The Lighthouse, 453 River Styx Road, Hopatcong (398-9450): Rubaiyat, Fri., Sat.; disco, Wed.; Hat Trick, Thu.

Moonrise, 1175 Route 10 East, Whippany (887-5358): Daybreak, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Tue.; Creation, Wed.

The Nook at Hidden Hills, Routes 24 and 57, Hackettstown (852-5694): Gandalf, Fri., Sat.; Magnum, Sun.; the Watch, Wed.

Pappy's Road House, 393 Maxim Drive, Hopatcong (398-4353): B. Wood Band, Fri.; Mason-Dixon Line, Sat.; Uncle John Band, Sun.; audition night, Mon.; Bob Zullo, Tue.; Texas Ed Band, Thu.

Rockpile, Route 206, Stanhope (347-7300): Timberwolf, Fri.; Jasper, Sat.; Beatlemagic, Sun.

Smile's Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge, 199 Littleton Road, Parsippany (263-6800): Hudson County, Fri., Sat.; KTU, Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed.

Townhouse off the Green, 42 Washington St., Morristown (538-0750): Margret Taylor and Splat, Fri.; Bullet Train, Sat.; Wayne Yessie, Mon.; Kevin O'Connor, Tue.; New Jazz Ensemble, Wed.