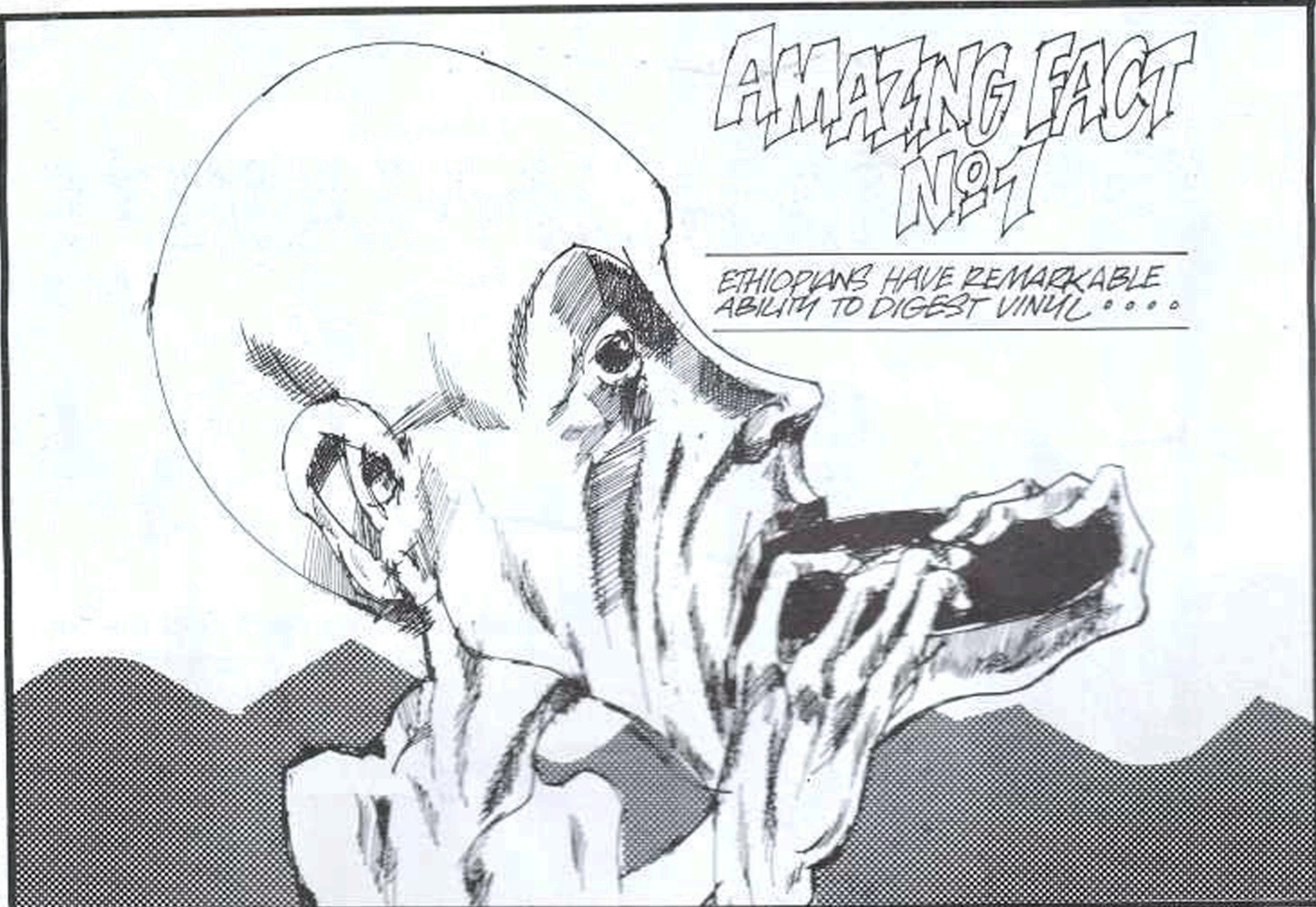


AMAZING FACT No 1

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THE CLASH

Just as they were being written off by everyone as finished, the Clash suddenly popped up to prove they are alive and kicking, with a series of low key gigs, playing pubs and clubs and the streets of the backward Northern cities. Anyone who wanted to could listen, their only aim being to entertain the surprised gatherings with sharp, acoustic sets.

They seemed to cause quite a furor with the music weeklies as they battled to get the first photo in print and scandal such as the paint-filled balloon thrown at them by an apartied demonstrator angry at their involvement with CBS; but neglected to mention the large number of gigs they played in the Newcastle/Sunderland area.

On Friday 10th May at the LANGHAM

in Sunderland, an orange haired Strummer led the band through all the old Clash favourites, mingled with such rock standards as Twist and Shout.

The tables doubled up as stage and drum kit and a receptive crowd, following Strummers lead, stomped their feet and sang along. Later in the day the BUNKER became host to the



pic. james thompson

strolling minstrels and a fine time was had by all.

Saturday morning found the band busking round the streets of Newcastle; due to popular demand an embarrassed policeman was sent on his way.

Next on their busy itinerary was the



STATION in Gateshead with a 50 strong entourage gathered by word of mouth.

Pushed along by the beat on a plastic chair the band strummed away for the best part of an hour, churning out perennial chestnuts such as White Riot, Garageland and White Man in Hammersmith Palais. The power of the songs was strong perhaps because they were playing for the people and not commerce. The band then returned to Sunderland where several people had to be turned away from GOLLUMS.

And then to the DRUM CLUB where they only managed to play 3 songs before being forced to call it a day — word was travelling fast and the place was seething.

