

Top 15 Canadian Albums

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| 1. Cowboy Junkies | The Caution Horses | RCA/BMG |
| 2. Honeymoon Suite | The Singles | WEA |
| 3. Loverboy | Big Ones | Columbia/CBS |
| 4. Alannah Myles | Alannah Myles | Atlantic/WEA |
| 5. Ray Lyell and the Storm | Ray Lyell and the Storm | Spy/A&M |
| 6. Killer Dwarfs | Dirty Weapons | Epic/CBS |
| 7. National Velvet | Courage | Capitol |
| 8. Maestor Fresh-Wes | Symphony in Effect | Attic/A&M |
| 9. Lee Aaron | Bodyrock | Attic/A&M |
| 10. The Grapes of Wrath | Now and Again | Capitol |
| 11. Neil Young | Freedom | Reprise/WEA |
| 12. Luba | All or Nothing | Capitol |
| 13. Skinny Puppy | Rabies | Netwerk/Capitol |
| 14. Crash Vegas | Red Earth | Risque Disque/WEA |
| 15. The Tragically Hip | Up to Here | MCA |

Top 15 International Albums

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| 1. Sinead O'Connor | I Do Not Want | Chrysalis/MCA |
| 2. Phil Collins | But Seriously... | Atlantic/WEA |
| 3. Alice Cooper | Trash | Epic/CBS |
| 4. Technotronic | Pump up the Jam the Album | SBK/Capitol |
| 5. Aerosmith | Pump | Geffen/WEA |
| 6. Midnight Oil | Blue Sky Mining | Columbia/CBS |
| 7. Joan Jett | The Hit List | CBS Assoc./CBS |
| 8. Skid Row | Skid Row | Atlantic/WEA |
| 9. Tall Tales and True | Shiver | Roo-Art/Polygram |
| 10. The 2 Live Crew | As Clean as They Wanna Be | Skywalker/WEA |
| 11. Joe Satriani | Flying in a Blue Dream | Relativity/WEA |
| 12. Billy Joel | Storm Front | Columbia/CBS |
| 13. Jesus and Mary Chain | Automatic | WEA |
| 14. Bonham | Disregard for Timekeeping | WTG/CBS |
| 15. Shakespear's Sister | Sacred Heart | London/Polygram |

Red Nineties Update: Britain In Revolt

By Ronnie Job Swansea, Wales, Great Britain.

Note: This article was written before the Anti-Poll Tax protests that took place on March 31, 1990 in London, England. The riots which resulted were among the worst in Britain this century.

This week (March 26-30) is a decisive one in the direction of British politics and political music. Last Thursday (March 22nd) saw the biggest by-election swing since 1935, when Labour took the Mid-Staffordshire seat with a majority of nearly 10,000. This was formerly one of the safest Tory seats in the country with a majority of over 14,000.

Today (Monday, March 26) saw the founding press conference of Artists Against the Poll Tax (A.A.P.T.). This could be a more important development for British music than the formation of Red Wedge (see previous article). Among the founding members of AAPT are many of the country's top rap artists: Double Trouble & the Rebel MC, Wee Papa Girl Rappers, Beats International, Silver Bullet, Overlord X and the X-Posse, Daddy Freddy and M.C. Duke, Cookie Crew. Pledges of support have also come from Jimi Somerville, the Proclaimers, Neneh Cherry, and the American singer Gil Scott-Heron, after he was visited by comrades from the Youth Rights Campaign, (Y.R.C.)

On Friday, March 30th, many of these artists are taking part in an anti-poll tax benefit gig in Briston, on the eve of what may turn out to be the biggest,

most significant demonstration in British history. Rap is the perfect vehicle for the expression of anger and frustration. The Poll Tax at last provides a message worthy of the vehicle.

All the latent anger and frustration of youth has come to the surface because of the poll tax; it's the last straw that broke the camel's back. Eleven years' indignity of low wages, unemployment and low wages; eleven years' despair at a lack of housing which means 88,000 teenagers sleep rough on the streets of Britain each night; eleven years' frustration as leisure facilities have raised their prices way beyond the level of most youth; all these explain the preponderance of youth on the demo's of thousands that have taken place outside townhalls as poll tax rates have been set up and down the country.

Most of Britain's rap artists know what it's like to be young and skint in Thatcher's Britain; they come from the same backgrounds as their audiences, like the punks of the '70s. "I remember the times when I had nothing and I wouldn't have been able to pay the poll tax. It is so unfair, the people are against it. We all need to stick together and not pay it." - Sandra, from the Wee Papa girl Rappers.

It's a sign of the changing times when spray-can writing on the wall becomes political. Now, around town, I see less and less "Swansea City F.C." or "Kev and Tracey"; it's more likely to be "Pay no poll tax" or "can't pay, won't pay!". The youth are on

the move, and once they've got direction, nothing can stop them.

The Youth Rights Campaign, which played a prominent part in the formation of AAPT, is in itself a significant development. Since its inception at the end of last year, it has been to the fore in the poll tax campaign. But unlike the Anti-Nazi League, this is no single issue movement - Y.R.C. is very similar to the American Youth Defence Campaign, and has been set up to fight for youth, in all areas of their lives. As explained above, youth have had the thin of the wedge over the last eleven years, but now it's "this far and no further!" The twelve point charter of the YRC has been drawn up to address the specific needs of youth, including the right to a job, free education, a home, and entertainment (cheap and accessible parties, clubs, concerts and sports facilities).

At the height of punk in 1977, Tom Robinson penned the lines,

"Look out, listen, can you hear it? there's panic in the county halls. Look out, listen, can you hear it? Whitehall's up against the wall?"

Those days are back, and back with a vengeance. The demo against the poll tax, called by the All Britain Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions, for Saturday, March 31, will thoroughly shake Whitehall. But when ten million people, the following day begin non-payment of the poll tax, the government will be really up against the wall.

Gordon Lightfoot at Confederation Centre - Inspiring Performance

On Monday April 2, Gordon Lightfoot graced the mainstage of the Confederation Centre with a spectacular performance. Lightfoot is currently touring the Maritimes on a number of one night stands. The sold-out crowd responded enthusiastically to classic Lightfoot songs as "Alberta Bound", "Endless Wire", "Pony Man" and "Canadian Railroad Trilogy". His sparkling performance reflected well on this entertainer's brilliant career. The good thing to see was that the whole band was into the show, still enjoying this ageless music as much as all the dedicated fans. At approximately 10 pm, after two hours of entertainment (less a 15 minute break), Lightfoot thanked the crowd and bid them farewell. This prompted an immediate standing ovation and Lightfoot and band performed "Old Dan's Records" in response. After the song the band left once more and once again they received another enthusiastic standing ovation. So, Lightfoot and band willing ran back out and did a tremendous version of the classic "The Auctioneer". The crowd was thrilled and really got their money's worth. An evening with Gordon Lightfoot turned out to be an evening with a great Canadian Storyteller, songwriter, musician and performer.

A big thank you goes out to all who made this rare performance possible and of course to Gordon Lightfoot for an overall inspiring performance.

by Colin James Cheverie