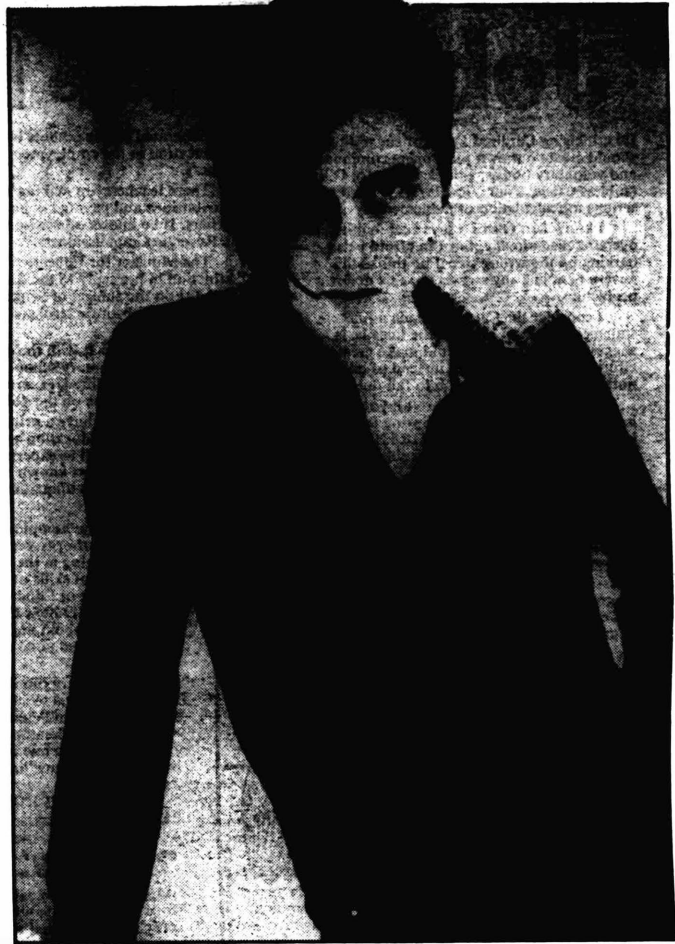


THE RAP

eamon carr's **ROCK UPDATE**



■ EASILY SUEDE: Brett Anderson leads the world with his classic British brand of pop

Suede set for a brush with success

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CONGRATULATIONS to **Blind**, previously signed to Lime Records, who've just signed a new international deal with EMI . . . Expect **The Cranberries** to support Mike Oldfield on some big British concerts and also to do the European leg of the **Hothouse Flowers'** tour . . . Hotly-tipped **Mike TV** play their fourth ever gig with **Leatherface** tonight in Cork then they're off to gig in London and Paris . . . **Whitney Houston**, who's named her baby girl **Bobbi Kristina** after her hubby, is releasing **I Have Nothing** as her third single from **The Bodyguard** soundtrack . . . Tonight's gig in **Bad Bobs** of Bray, which was to be filmed by RTE has been postponed due to a technical problem . . . **Hank Hallhead**, who's got a track on the new **Mickey Rourke's** **Fridge** compilation album, **My Favourite Things**, is back in **Break For The Border** tonight . . . Dublin's long-serving blues rockers **The Business**, who'll begin an **Unplugged** gig in the **Harcourt Hotel** on Tuesday, have begun a regular Friday night slot at **The Silver Granite** . . . French jazz singer **Elizabeth Caumont** makes the last stop on her current European tour at the **Edmund Burke Hall** in Trinity on Sunday night . . . **Dolores Keane**, in the charts with her new album **Solid Ground**, makes a rare appearance at **The Purty Loft** on Sunday night.



Whitney Houston . . . another new single.

ROCK 'n' roll began in America but, ever since The Beatles, Brit-pop has been a hugely saleable commodity.

Given the sorry state of her majesty's nation, it's imperative that the leisure industry doesn't let the side down. Exports are what's needed. Confidence can be restored with striking new products and foreign trade encouraged.

Britain needs Suede.

In recent years America has continued to seize the initiative. Rap, Grunge, Country, almost all the recent big international musical trends have been created by the Yanks. Britain's biggest acts overseas are still Sixties' discoveries: Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney.

Two weeks ago there were only two British acts in the American Top 20. Clapton and Duran Duran.

Only Suede can save them.

Techno, arguably invented by German cybermen Kraftwerk, has been adopted as a British craze. But it's earning as much for Holland, Sweden, Italy and Germany as it is for Britain.

Suede will restore Britain's pride.

Manchester rave bands had made it to the cover of Time and Newsweek. The Chancellor of the Exchequer surely felt these ragamuffins would put the E in England. But all he got was a walk on the wild side and spectacular crash.

That's where Suede come in.

The weekly rock papers forced the industry to acknowledge the quartet. They got to appear on the

annual Brit Awards show, though they only had a couple of singles to their credit. Suede are tailor-made for success.

"We always knew the kind of band we wanted to be," bass-player Mat Osman has said. "Which was an important, celebratory, huge rock band. A really old-fashioned thing.

A great British rock band."

With Brett Anderson as frontman and Bernard Butler on guitar, Suede have all the right ingredients. Like many before them, they cultivate androgyny. "I see myself as a bisexual man who's never had a homosexual experience," is Brett's celebrated

comment. But more importantly, they've got the songs, the riffs and the attitude.

Suede are a band with a Nineties sensibility and an acclaimed over-worked and over-wrought glam rock-filtered-through-Morrissey fixation. Also, like the former Smiths' frontperson, they're British through and through.

Brett's dad flies the Union Jack on the birthdays of Churchill and Nelson. And Brett himself

employs many of the vocal mannerisms of David Bowie. Their debut album, which is due in the shops on Monday, sounds shrill and strident in the way of all classic English pop, from Tommy Steele to The Smiths. It should go straight to No.1.

Suede are the perfect *deja vu* for older people in the music business who want to recapture the spirit of the heady days of Anglo pop-rock. Be it either Ray Davies in the

Sixties, Steve Harley in the Seventies or The Smiths in the Eighties.

But Suede also speak eloquently in the pop language of today. They've proved to be a dramatic live band. With the album out on Monday, they'll soon be turning their attentions to the States.

They could just be the band to put the Great back in Britain.

How Mozart's Requiem became an opera

DID you know that Mozart's Requiem was an Opera? Neither did Mozart. Yet, on the new disc, the Opera Sampler Mozart's death bed composition is right up there with Aida, Madam Butterfly, and the Barber of Seville. I have nothing against Mozart's Requiem. It's a lovely piece even if the composer had the misfortune to die before he'd finished it. But it's about as much an opera as Robinson Crusoe starring Twink. That said, the Opera Sampler is an excellent disc. It comes as part of six, new, bargain-basement compilations from DG all of which retail at the highly competitive price of just £4.49. The aforementioned Opera Sampler has a

Classic CDs

By PETER HOWICK

very starry line-up, including Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras, and Herbert von Karajan. There are excerpts from Don Giovanni, Carmen and the Tales of Hoffman amongst others, most of which come in first class digital sound. Some of the tracks you will have already but, if not, this is a very cheap disc with which to start an opera collection.

THE pick of the other discs in the series are the early Music Sampler and the Chamber Music

Sampler. Early music — from the 17th and 18th centuries — is not very familiar (the Four Seasons notwithstanding) but this is a relatively inexpensive way to listen to Pachelbel, Monteverdi and Handel with the music being played on instruments used in the composers' own day. The Chamber Music Sampler has first class performances of Beethoven's Spring Sonata and Haydn's Emperor Spring Quartet which contains the tune now employed as the German National Anthem. A lovely disc. I should also mention here RCA's budget compilation "World's Greatest Choruses" which has 16 choral classics from Handel's Messiah to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. A snip at £5.99.

FINALLY to a compilation which is selling well but which is extremely bad value for money — the tackily-named The Best of the Classical Bits which is a tie in with the Gary Davies Radio Show on the BBC. Here you have all the usual stuff, like Vivaldi's Four Seasons etc., all coming with little descriptions like "as used in TV ads for Flash Liquid". One can't condemn the music but the disc retails at £14.99 which is scandalous when you consider that all the recordings have been issued by Phillips before. Put it this way, if you bought all three of the DG Samplers reviewed above you would still have more change than if you went and bought Gary Davies's over-priced and patronising compilation?