



SOUND GOOD: ABBA lookalikes Bjorn Again who are giving a show in Sunderland tomorrow night

Bjack again, the ABBA lookalikes

ABBA lookalikes and soundalikes Bjorn Again are back in the North-East tomorrow for a night of top quality entertainment. The tongue-in-cheek act is at Sunderland Empire and guarantees two hours of ABBA hits...and more. They've also just released a new double album, one disc called *Flashback*, featuring numbers such as *Yes Sir I Can Boogie* and *Flashdance*, the second featuring the band live singing ABBA tunes. Talking to Bjorn Volvous, alias Gavin Charles, is an experience. Gone is his normal Australian accent, in comes the mock Swedish twang. The story goes how all four members were involved in a crash and ended up talking Swedish and looking and sounding like the original ABBA. They're now a huge success, with

shows selling out in numerous countries. "It is good. We have a big following all over the place now. "We've done about 1,000 shows in the last five years. But we never tire of it. "The girls have to keep their voices in tip-top condition. They do a lot of vocal training, shouting at Benny and me all the time. They get so jealous sometimes." Bjorn realises that all good things must come to an end. "We don't know what's going to happen, except maybe for the next three months. "That's the way it has been for the past five years. Maybe after 10 years, some other band should take over from us." ■ Bjorn Again are at Sunderland Empire tomorrow night.

Source of hit sound

There's nothing to compare to The Cranberries who play at Newcastle Mayfair tonight. **GORDON BARR reports**

THE Cranberries couldn't have got off to a better start with their debut album. *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?* topped the charts and their new album, *No Need To Argue*, is guaranteed to achieve similar success. As the single *Zombie* climbs the charts, the album will be given a live airing at Newcastle's Mayfair tonight. One of the trademarks of The Cranberries is their honesty. "We were thrown in at the deep end at the beginning," said guitarist Noel Hogan. "We more or less started this band right after we learned to play our instruments and, very soon after we first got together, we started getting a lot of notice because of our demos. "We had no other choice but to get it together quickly and keep moving forward." The Cranberries seem totally unaffected by their international stardom. "I wasn't going to let a little bit

of success stop me from expressing myself," said recently-married Dolores O'Riordan. "I was between 18 and 20 when I wrote the lyrics on the first album and two years older when I wrote the news ones. "Naturally, they've moved on lyrically and experience-wise. "I wrote quite a lot while we were touring, which was something I really enjoyed. "It was really nice that, after a gig and in the middle of all the chaos, I'd be away into a corner with a guitar writing about what I was feeling. "Being famous and having people screaming at you doesn't make me happy. But writing a song does. "Life's so unpredictable that there's no point in planning anything. "None of us takes things too seriously and, if it all ended tomorrow, we'd just think 'All well and good, we had a good time.' ■ The Cranberries are at Newcastle Mayfair tonight. **SET FOR THE TOP:** the



THE PROCLAIMERS: back in Newcastle at the Tyne Theatre tonight just months after playing a sell-out gig here

It's great to be back

SCOTS twins The Proclaimers are back in Newcastle tonight, just months after playing a sell-out gig in the city. Charlie and Craig Reid are at the Tyne Theatre, having just returned from an extensive North American tour. "We decided to play a few more dates in Britain," said Charlie. "Newcastle audiences are always receptive so we thought we'd come back." The tour coincides with the release of the group's latest single, a cover of the Otis Redding classic *These Arms Of Mine*. The single version is different from that on the last, moderately

successful album, *Hit The Highway*. This time around, a 12-piece string section has been added, with the help of Shara Nelson's co-writer Nick Ingham. "It's a great song so we decided to record it," said Charlie. "We were quite happy with how the album went. "We'd been gone a long time and the music industry is fickle. I just hope we don't suffer writer's block for another five years. "I'd like us to have an album out next year. So here's hoping." ■ The Proclaimers play Newcastle's Tyne Theatre tonight.

WIN

THE GUINNESS BOOK OF
NUMBER ONE HITS

IT'S NO 1: It's The Guinness Book of Number One Hits

Be a No 1 bookworm

THE latest edition of the Guinness Book of Number One Hits has just been published and we have two copies to give away. It lists every Number One in the British singles chart history from Al Martino in 1952 to this year's Wet Wet Wet million seller. For a chance to win a copy of the book, which will cost £1.50 in the shops, answer this question: Who had Number One hits with *Heart of Glass*, *Sunday Girl*, *Atomic*, *Call Me* and *The Tide Is High*? Send your entries to Number Ones, c/o Gordon Barr, Evening Chronicle, Thomson House, Great Market, Newcastle, NE1 1ED. Normal competition rules apply.

Success so sweet

SUGAR, who've just released a new single, are playing at Newcastle's Mayfair on Monday. The group's latest album, *File Under Easy Listening*, has been a huge hit and they're aiming for a repeat success with the single, *Believe What You're Saying*. But the album nearly never happened. In March, this year, all the tracks were erased and the band had to start all over again. "It was starting to sound like a really calculated record," said Bob Mould. "I thought it was pretty miserable. "We bashed it out a lot quicker second time around - took a different attitude to it."

WIN

Chance to see Doors

THE Australian Doors play at Newcastle University on October 19. And we've got three pairs of tickets to give away. To enter, just answer this question: Who was The Doors' leading man? Send your entries to Doors Competition, c/o Gordon Barr, Evening Chronicle, Thomson House, Great Market, Newcastle, NE1 1ED. Normal competition rules apply.

the cranberries

no need to argue

Cranberries' new album *No Need To Argue* looks likely to repeat the success of their number one debut effort