

NEW BRITISH ALBUMS

GEORGE CLINTON: Capitol ST 12246

COMPUTER GAMES: Get Dressed; Man's Best Friend; Loopzilla; Pot Sharing Tots; Computer Games; Atomic Dog; Free Alterations; One Fun At A Time.

George Clinton's first album under his own name (which also marks his debut for Capitol Records) should be seen as a significant and important event. Clinton's influence on the course of black music over the last decade has been immense, rarely receiving the recognition it/he undoubtedly deserves.

After initially creating and establishing the P-Funk empire with Parliament/Funkadelic and the ensuing offshoots during the 70's, Clinton now produces

"Computer Games" — a project which loosely yields a more refined P-Funk version for the 80's.

Clinton has adroitly managed to secure an uncluttered overall sound for the album which is achieved, quite simply, by George taking complete control of the computer keyboard. Although Bootsy, Fred Wesley, Maceo and Co. are all here playing a nice tight backing set, it is as a backing set and not as individual performers that they are included.

Thus, the "overcrowded" feel which may have been in evidence on previous Clinton recordings, is replaced by the cleaner and sharper edge we have here.

Standout tracks are "Get Dressed"; "Atomic Dog"; "Pot Sharing Tots" (a sort of musical cross between Captain Sensible and Ken Dodd!) and of course, "Loopzilla".

However, the album stands up well as an entity — something which has not always been apparent on past Clinton efforts — and proves a satisfying play from start to finish.

Although in no way can this album be regarded as a black music milestone (although Clinton himself is clearly in this

category), it remains a welcome and entertaining slab of 80's funk that augurs well for the future. Rating: 7) (CB)

PRINCE: Warner Brothers 23730 1999: 1999; Little Red Corvette; Delirious; Let's Pretend We're Married; D.M.S.R.; Automatic; Something In The Water (Does Not Compute); Free; Lady Cab Driver; All The Critics Love U In New York; International Lover.

Prince's "Controversy" album, released earlier this year, was just that: musically controversial, fresh, invigorating, stimulating and sexual.

With his latest outing, the double-set "1999", the Minneapolis Wonder Kid, although still in blatant non-conformist mood, appears to have got himself stuck in an electronic time warp and although, in places, an album of merit, it is sadly lacking in new ideas and direct musical progress.

However, despite this somewhat disappointing set, Prince remains a richly talented and original musician whose ability to register with his market remains intact . . . just!

Highlights of the album are the title track with its wispy keyboards and committed drumming over-riding Prince's reedy, falsetto vocals; the rocky "Delirious" and "Automatic"; together with the funky dancer, "D.M.S.R." and the equally funky and sexually perky "Lady Cab Driver".

"Little Red Corvette" is only just acceptable with its 80's update (lyrically speaking) on all those old 60's cruisin' tunes: "Saturday night, it's alright . . . give me the keys of the love machine" etc. etc. whilst the remainder of the songs are at best, musical padding and musically arid!

"1999" is no great epitaph to Prince, but rather a slightly out of date "comment". The man is currently, it would seem, a Jack of all trades and master of . . . some! (Rating: 7) (BK)

STREET SOUNDS — Various: Street Sounds ZCSTS 001
RAPPED UPTIGHT: Various: Sugarhill SHLD 1001
DANGEROUS DANCE MUSIC: Various: Jive HOP 204
POWER CUTS: Heatwave: Epic EPC 25199

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George Clinton: complete control

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