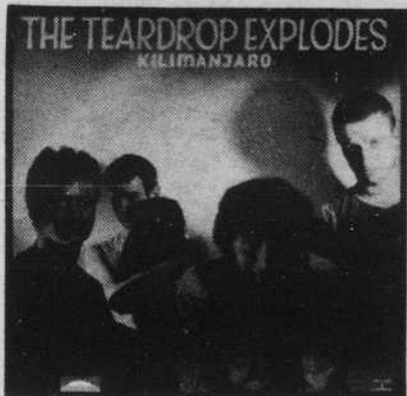


LPs



Kilimanjaro
The Teardrop Explodes
Mercury SRM-1-4016

Crocodiles
Echo and the Bunnymen
Korova/Sire SRK 6096

Leading contenders for Band Name of the Decade, The Teardrop Explodes and Echo and the Bunnymen have much in common.

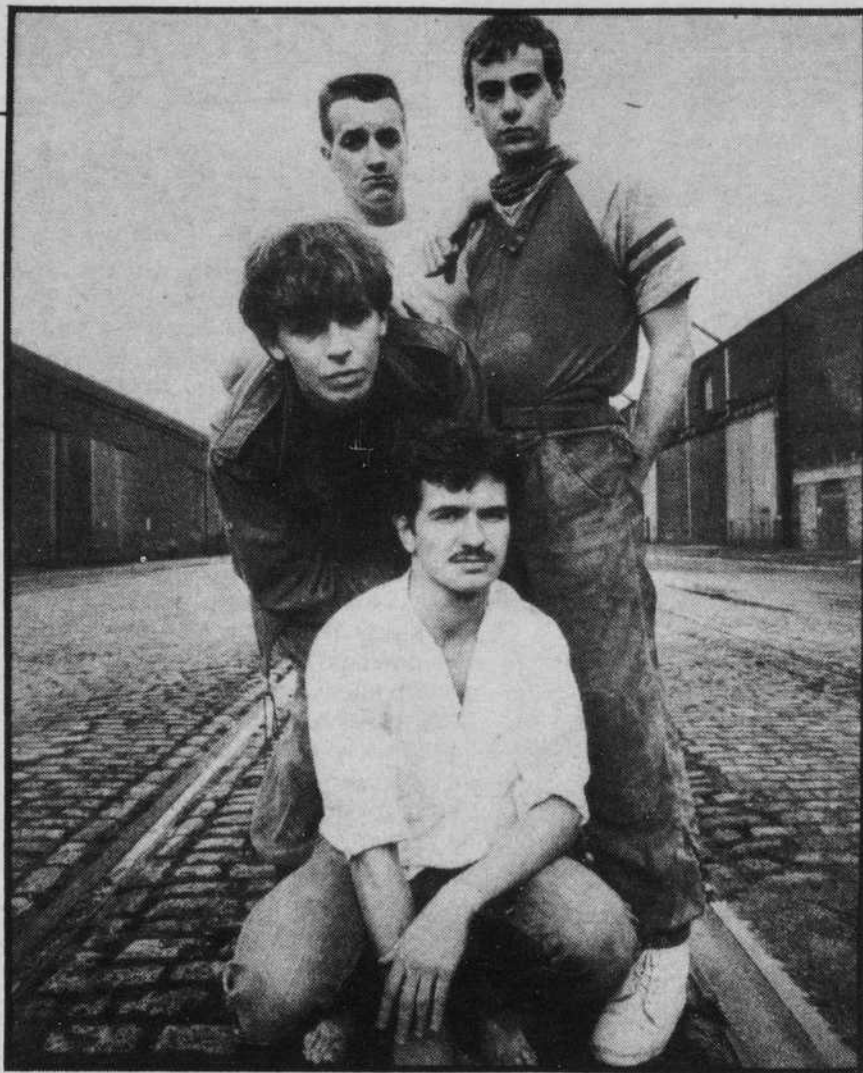
The groups share producers (David Balfe and Bill Drummond, known collectively as the Chameleons), keyboard players (David Balfe, who plays on both albums but is officially a member of Teardrop), and positions in the forefront of the new English art-rock movement.

Their lead singers, Julian Cope (Teardrop) and Ian McCulloch (Echo) share songwriting credits on "Read It in Books," which appears on both albums.

It's a credit to the talents of the Chameleons production team, not to mention the accuracy of their name, that the two versions of "Read It in Books" sound like completely different songs. The initial releases of the two bands also sound completely different.

Depending upon the circumstances, it can be a pleasure or a disappointment for a listener to be able to name the albums a band was listening to when it cuts a record. In the case of Echo and the Bunnymen, the discovery is a disappointment.

Echo and the Bunnymen sound alternately like Jim Morrison fronting the Gang of Four or the Talking Heads; it could be a fascinating starting point, to be sure, but rarely do they do anything with it. Only on "Rescue" are the influences transcended. The rest of *Crocodiles* is made up of reasonably good songs, but bogs down in a bloated sense of self-importance.



The Teardrop Explodes' *Kilimanjaro* is much more interesting. The difference between it and *Crocodiles* is illustrated perfectly by "Read It in Books."

When performed by Echo and

the Bunnymen, "Books" sounds like a slightly rearranged version of the Talking Heads' "Warning Sign." The Teardrop version begins with a martial drum introduction lifted from Roy Orbison's "Oh,

Pretty Woman," and turns into a bouncy dance track punched up by David Balfe's sprightly keyboards.

Balfe's prominence is the real key to *Kilimanjaro*'s success. His piano and organ add a brightness to the overall sound, and his synthesizer work captures the sound of a harpsichord.



Cope's songwriting reveals a sense of humor completely lacking on Echo's *Crocodiles*. Occasionally he gets a bit too cute, but generally *Kilimanjaro* fulfills the promise of the back cover's invitation to "Hop, skip, and jump; wait for the bump."

The Teardrop Explodes have come up with a rarity: art-rock with a smile.

Phil Bernstein

Touch of Silk
Eric Gale
Columbia JC 36570

You've probably heard of jazz guitarist Eric Gale before, but most likely on other people's albums.

He's been a New York session man since the sixties, playing with the whole CTI (Creed Taylor, Inc.) jazz label crew as well as Aretha Franklin, Michael Flanks, Carly Simon and other pop artists. Most recently he played on Paul Simon's *One Trick Pony*, gracing the title cut with his bluesy, halting, note-

squeezing style.

Gale's latest album, *Touch of Silk*, is the seventh showcase record he's made since his first, *Forecast*. Gale has also recorded with Stuff, an impromptu jazz combo that plays New York clubs when they're not on studio dates. But this time around it's Gale's record; he does the leads and chops throughout.

Gale didn't write any of the numbers; all but two of the numbers are by "swamp-style" New Orleans-influenced composer Allen Toussaint. Toussaint plays piano and organ on all



the songs, and he produces the album as well.

The music ranges from the soft, lilting title cut to a

revamped and funky Charlie Parker classic blues tune, "Au Privave." In between are some good listening songs, like "With You I'm Born Again" and "Once In a Smile," basically comfortable jazz rounds with each player hooting or bumping his solo.

Toussaint's "War Paint" doesn't work — it's hard to step into a jazz session with some Indian-sounding opening piano bars, then tell the fellows to sound tribal.

Stylistically, Gale's playing is tasteful and simple. Unlike some guitarists who'd rather blister

through umpteen single line scales and remind us of all their practice hours, Gale will pick a note and play variations on a theme. His style is to "feel" his way through a tune, searching for that mellow sound instead of hoping just a lot of notes will make the message felt.

Touch of Silk is a blend of nice horn solos, jazzy winelight music, pretty piano and some organ-driven feelgood blues. With Gale vibrating his guitar throughout, it's an album most jazz fans will like.

John Malarkey

WANTED
Your Unwanted
Records
Top Prices Paid
"We Buy-Sell-Trade
Current, Rare, and Out
of Print Records"

**HOUSE OF
RECORDS**
258 E. 13th
Between Pearl
and High Streets

**ACTION
SURPLUS**
Lane County's Surplus
and Outdoor Store

Check out these sale prices!

100% wool Air Force pants in green or blue
Reg. \$4.95 Now \$2.50

100% wool green Army pants
Reg. \$8.95 Now \$4.95

**10% OFF ALL OTHER
WOOL PANTS**
... 13 button Navy to 6 pocket
Army, there are many styles, sizes
and colors to choose from!

Plus 100% wool shirts are 10%
OFF! (Reg. \$12.95) These make
great spring jackets.

Open 7 days a week
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-6:00 Sun. 11-4
4251 Franklin Blvd. on the Glenwood
strip just before the Springfield Bridge.
746-1301
Layaways

WOODY ALLEN
DIANE KEATON
MICHAEL MURPHY
MARIEL HEMINGWAY
MERYL STREEP
ANNE BYRNE

MANHATTAN

Music by GEORGE GERSHWIN
A JACK ROLLINS-CHARLES H. JOFFE production
Written by WOODY ALLEN and MARSHALL BRICKMAN
Produced by CHARLES H. JOFFE
Directed by WOODY ALLEN
Executive Producer ROBERT GREENHUT
Director of Photography GORDON WILLIS

United Artists **R** Copyright © 1979 United Artists Corp. All rights reserved.

Friday, March 6th \$1.75 150 Geology
7:30, 9:30 &
Special Midnight Showing
Mayday Cultural Committee