

Grapevine

One man's Litter is another's treasure —
Minneapolis '60s garage psych
band auctions don't go to waste

Thirty-nine-year-old Nicholas Smith was barely 2 in 1966, but the New York record collector has an affinity for music of the era, particularly for psychedelic garage bands. "I generally collect what I deem to be good garage and psych records, but I try not to go off the deep end by buying every single garage record," Smith said. So when he saw an eBay listing for the Minnesota band The Litter's original first album, *Distortions* (Warick WM-671-A, mono, 1966), he watched the auction like a hawk ready to swoop down on its prey.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, George Douvartzidis was tracking the same album from his home in South Australia. "I bought a reissue of *Distortions* years ago and liked it so much I started to chase down details of the band," Douvartzidis said. Unfortunately,

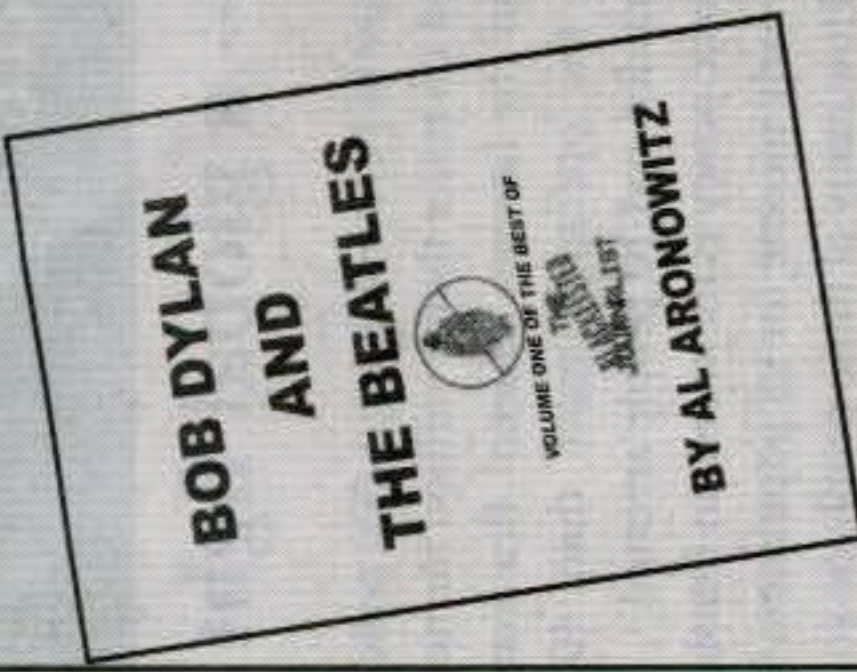
Tom "Zip" Caplan was the lead guitarist for The Litter from 1967-68 and the seller of both albums. He says the attention (and amounts) paid for these auctions is an affirmation that there is still an interest in the garage-band genre.

with several time zones to contend with, from a litter of puppies.

Douvartzidis lost track of the closing time and "I think the group's sound originally was just



The Victors, pooled their collective band members together. Contrary to the obvious assumption that the band was named after garbage, the moniker was actually derived



For couch potatoes: *Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue*, from Eagle Vision, focuses on Miles Davis' transition from acoustic jazz into the rock/jazz/fusion he played from *Bitches Brew* on into the 1970s. Former band members including Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Dave Holland, Pete Cosey, Keith Jarrett, James Muume, and Airtio Moreira as well as Carlos Santana are interviewed and discuss playing with Davis, his music and approach and how jazz critics and the band members themselves didn't quite get what Davis was going for — at first. The DVD also features Davis and band's complete 38-minute performance at 1970's Isle Of Wight festival in front of an estimated 600,000 attendees... *Jan Akkerman* was voted "World's Best Guitarist" in a 1973 *Melody Maker* poll. His work with the Dutch rock band Focus and later solo albums demonstrate Akkerman's ability to play rock and jazz guitar and even the lute with jaw-dropping mastery. *Jan Akkerman Live* (Music Video Distributors) is the legendary guitarist's first live DVD, containing performances from two shows — Viersen and Leverkusen, Germany, showcasing Akkerman's jazzy side. Bonuses include an interview, a solo lute performance and a stunning duet with Paco De Lucia... More guitar wizardry comes forth from Steve Hackett on his live DVD *Once Above A Time* (Eagle Rock).

visiting Aronowitz at home. Addictive reading!... Bobby Darin was another of journalist Aronowitz's acquaintances. Prior to Darin's death, the singer contacted Aronowitz and asked him to write his autobiography — the two men agreed to meet in the summer of 1973 to work on the project. Unfortunately Darin became so ill he was unable to meet with Aronowitz, and the autobiography was never written (Darin died Dec. 20, 1973). *Bobby Darin Was A Friend Of Mine: Volume Three Of The Best Of The Blacklisted Journalist* is Aronowitz's posthumous tribute. Its 43 chapters provide snapshots of Darin's brief, sensational life.

Odds & sods: The 2005 Rock And Roll Fantasy Camp will be Feb. 17-21 in Los Angeles, Calif. The event allows participants to learn from, jam and practice with and socialize with some of rock's biggest names. No musical experience is required. This year's roster includes Roger Daltrey (The Who), Colin Hay (Men At Work), Jon Anderson (Yes), Jack Blades and Kelly Keagy (Night Ranger), Dickey Betts (The Allman Brothers Band), Dickey Betts And Great Southern), Nils Lofgren (Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band), Bret Michaels (Poison), Elliot Easton (The Cars), Bruce Kulick (Kiss), Gary Burr (Pure Prairie League), Jim Keltner (Traveling Wilburys) and Michael Lardie (Great