Just when I clear out my “to be reviewed” file, I get inundated with more new vinyl. This time, the vinyl comes in the form of new singles from a variety of sources. Where to start?

Here, I just heard this on the radio (WKRC, God Bless’tm). I don’t actually own the single, but I intend to remedy that situation immediately.

### Spandau Ballet
**Glow**

Chrysalis Records

I just plugged these guys in the last issue, and they turn around and deliver this wonderful tune. What nerve! (They wouldn’t have read my review yet, air mail takes a week. Hmm …) It seems that Spandau have either undergone a major reevaluation or have been listening to Certain Ratio records, because this new tune, “Glow,” really cooks. It embodies all the elements their album merely hinted at: choppv, brittle guitar; imaginative synthesizer playing; threatening vocals — and it’s really funky, too! Buy it and dance your *** off.**

The next four discs are released on the all-important Rough Trade label. These purveyors of eclecticism have taken a turn and entered a soft, even cute, music phase. It provides for an interesting change, but I hope it’s not a trend. On with it.

### Television Personalities

**I Know Where Syd Barrett Lives**

Arthur the Gardner

The satire never stops with the Television Personalities. Their “Part Time Punks” was the ultimate ridicule of the suburban trends; now they set out to butcher another sacred cow — the knowledgeable trendy. The title says it all — the whereabouts of the legendary Pink Floyd founder have been a mystery for years. The music is just too cute for words, with little birds chirping in the background (an old Barrett trick) and nursery rhyme vocals. “Arthur” continues the style, but not as convincingly. The whole disc is worth owning for the ending of “Syd Barrett.”

### Six of One, Half Dozen of Another...

**PERE UBU**

**NOT HAPPY**

These tunes are a far cry from the industrial sensibilities Ubu espoused in The Modern Dance. “Not Happy” sounds like an outtake from The Art of Walking, their most recent album. It’s all just plain silly — “Why can’t we be happy like the swimming turtle?” C’mom, guys, give me a break. I suspect that against regs Thomsen had a lot to do with this single — he should admit the joke and let business continue as usual. “Lonesome Cowboy Dave,” about a guy with “a hat the size of Oklahoma,” is even more ridiculous, but at least shorter.

**Lonesome Cowboy Dave**

### Chromo

**In a Dream**

**DANGER ZONE**

Don’t Fall off the Mountain Records

This LP, actually titled Rivals, is the latest effort by San Francisco’s best electronic band, Chromo. Distilled down to the essential music of Damu Edger and Helios Creed, just get better as their recording career progresses. These tunes are real knockouts — both danceable and interestingly musical. The Chromo sound achieves a perfect definition here, with its snapping treble-guitar, punchy drumming, booming bass and menacing vocals (Edger and Creed each take a turn). “Danger Zone” chugs along at a rapid clip, with an effective run-down pass in the middle. The real masterpiece, however, is “In a Dream,” with its phased vocals darting between speakers and random electronic noise (mostly snippets of TV programs) washing through the background. This one is destined to become a major dance hit. Buy now before tendencies set in.

**Nikki Sudden**

**Back to the Start**

**Ringing on My Train**

This single comes in the wake of the demise of the (father) Swell Maps. Lead singer Nikki continues the Maps style of flat vocals, slurry guitars, and singong melodies — the record is awful at first listen, but it quickly grows on you. “Back to the Start” has some pretty keyboard playing, and “Ringing in My Train”’s sax line bumps along infectiously. The production is much clearer than a Maps effort — all the better to hear Hugo (Gang of Four) Burnham’s drumming and the bass (by ex-Mop Phones Sportman). I’d rather see Swell Maps reunion, but until then, Nikki does just fine.

**Trixie Belden**

*General Hospital Update*

On May 22, MITH students will have an opportunity to witness a non-scientific phenomenon, when General Hospital stars, Tony Geary (Luke Spencer), Jackie Zeman (Bobbie Spencer), and Norma Cornelles (Vest Ruby), come to town as part of a weekend-long workshop at Harvard University.

The force behind this phenomenon is not the vast, magnetic power of Harvard, but the hard work and dedication of one woman, Danielle Alexander. Two and a half years ago, Ms. Alexander, a Harvard graduate, founded the Harvard University Council for the Performing Arts, to provide students with “hands-on” experience in the entertainment industry. Under its auspices, Ms. Alexander has arranged workshops by a variety of directors and actors, including Burt Reynolds and Jeff Clayburgh.

Alexander stresses that the actors have come to work as well as play, and so they shall. As part of the program, the Council is offering workshops on such subjects as the facial spectacle of soap operas, morality of story concepts, the soap opera phenomenon, and an acting seminar, in which students will act out scenes from past General Hospital scripts.

On the play side, there will be a press conference, a huge party at a Boston club, and a dinner and awards ceremony at which Geary will receive the “Monsieur Fatata” award for his impact on daytime TV. (Susan Lucci, Erica on All My Children, was last year’s winner.) Interested MITH students should contact the Harvard University Council for the Performing Arts for more information. Luke, Bobbie, Ruby — welcome to town!