They're not really a band, they're a collective headed by two musicians. Their music isn't really rock or jazz, but sometimes it could be considered disco. They've recorded with the finest jazz musicians in New York City, yet they retain close ties to the record industry. The refusal to include a spotlighted soloist, though assisted by a bevy of superstars—Chic's Nile Rodgers, saxophonists Oliver Lake and Archie Shepp, guitarist Fred Frith, and an Eno songwriting credit—Material remains true to its non-solo credo, often with startling results. The refusal to include a spotlighted soloist makes the most of his side as a saxophonist, coaxing brilliant playing out of all concerned—listen to Oliver Lake's sax fills in "Come Down," or Nie Rodgers' guitar work in "I'm The Man." Disco though it may be, One Down is bound to be the most conventional dance music. Each piece is anchored by Laswell's incomparable bass work and suffused by Beinhorn's battery of synthesizers, tapes, and clanging percussion. Three of the tunes—"Take A Chance," "One Off," and "Dance Laugh—Control"—utilize vocoder-treated voices, which lend the vocals a machine-like quality and further the idea of the music's purity, functionality. Although the choice of cover tunes is unusual, at least one of them works very well: Hugh Hopper's "Memories," here performed as a slow ballad with some evocative fills from Archie Shepp's tenor sax. The other cover, Sly Stone's "Let Me Have It All," succeeds in merely recreating, rather than improving upon, the spiritual original version, but that's just asiging. One Down is a near perfect disco record and yet another example of Material's musical flexibility. Material has made enough music to satisfy almost everyone's taste; one of its disadvantages would be right for you. After all, there's a bit of the materialist in all of us.

Be Famous!!
We can't promise anything, but almost everyone who attended the last GA Meeting got their name on the front page of The Tech. There'll be another GA Meeting this Thursday, February 17 at 7:30pm. Call the UA office at 2-3396 or Shira Ayusardal, GA Floor Leader, to find out where the meeting is, and for your dinner reservations. If you wear a rubber nose you may get to chair the meeting.

Wanna Get Involved?
Maybe you need some activities to put on your future school application. Perhaps you're looking for that office which will provide the springboard you need to rule the world. Could you be like Peter Eno? They're Material, and they continue to confound people's expectations of what should be called new music.

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Medium Crust
This is my traditional please-send-us-items paragraph. It has nothing to do with medium crust, but Ken Segel asked me to use "Medium Crust" and I did so because Ken's name is Segel. Perhaps he's thinking you'll buy us a pizza. Still, it doesn't make sense. The best thing to do is forget the title and write a bunch of kind of stuff for the UA News.

David Scrimshaw, 2/20/83.