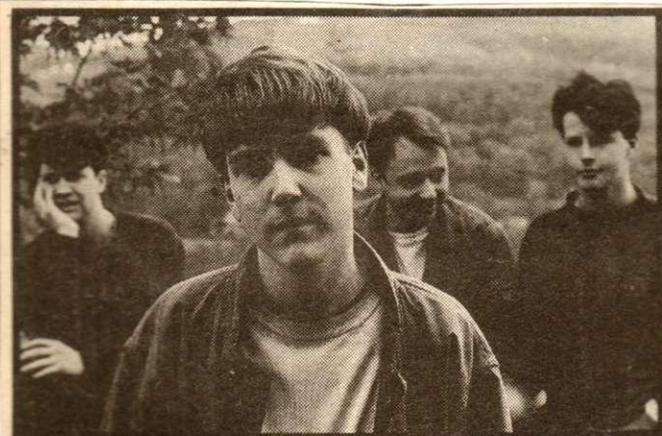




**ON ON ON**

● **Wiggy pop! Get ludicrous with Galway's gloriously pompous TOASTED HERETIC, get giddy with mutant Turtle Martin Coogan's guitar grooving protégés THE LAST PEACH and don't mention the girls to down-to-earth Dabblers the FORGET-ME-NOTS**



**Stubborn seven-minutemen The Last Peach**

## PEACH DE RESISTANCE

**Just over a year ago THE LAST PEACH received their first – extremely favourable – live review in NME.**

A week later they promptly split up, pitching mainman David Cooper headlong into several months of re-thinking and auditioning a new line-up.

Now back in business, the rejuvenated Hebden Bridge foursome have completed a support tour with The Mock Turtles, and this week release their first record for Pomona – the nascent label founded by Turtles singer Martin Coogan.

"We try to play down the connection, though," Cooper sheepishly confesses over a cup of British Rail's finest coffee substitute. Coogan produced the lead track on the new EP, 'Jarvis', but Cooper swears that their connection with, ahem, 'Middleton's finest' is definitely a business arrangement rather than an artistic affinity.

'Jarvis', disappointingly not about the enigmatic Jarvis Cocker of Pulp, swings energetically on a disarming stop/start guitar groove. The track is symptomatic of both The Last Peach's brazen self-confidence and the problems their somewhat 'stubborn' attitude can create. Clocking in at a radio-unfriendly seven minutes, the song has, not unexpectedly, encountered opposition from DJs and, initially, their record label.

"I was talking to Mark Goodier's producer and he'd just heard the record for the first time that day, said he really liked it and all that, but then said, we won't play that – it's seven minutes long!" exclaims Cooper. While he agrees that this inevitably limits the potential audience for the song, Cooper is adamant that the band's artistic integrity remains paramount, refusing all offers of remixes and diplomatically deflecting Martin Coogan's advice of a radio edit.

"You could say we were stubborn," says Cooper, "but we just felt that if we wanted people to hear The Last Peach as we hear them ourselves, then they have to hear that song as it was originally recorded. It isn't meant to be hard in any way other than that."

The single comes dressed in a full-colour sleeve 'borrowed' from a '60s advert for French socks, a budget-inflating decision which also caused a flurry of brow-furrowing at Pomona HQ.

"The record company said, if the Pixies can manage with a two-colour sleeve, why can't you? I said, get us Vaughan Oliver to design it and we will!"

The Last Peach, still giddy from the thrill of hearing their name mentioned by the venerable John Peel, are a band with their sights on the horizon and their feet on the ground: "... None of us have got very big egos, we're just happy playing to more than 30 people." No problems.

**Jonny Thatcher**