

LP 1 Side A

A1 The Reverbs - Trusted Woods







The cascading riff that opens "Trusted Woods" is a perfect clarion call for Strum & Thrum; it comes from the only record by Chicago's the Reverbs, a gem-packed 1984 EP called The Happy Forest. Apropos of its title, the EP concerns itself with youthful wonder at long walks past trees, railroad tracks, and farm machinery contrasted with longings for other people and places. Strong press notices and decent distribution via Enigma pushed a few copies around, and it was something of a Midwest used-bin staple throughout the '90s, seen mostly as an early building block of the career of one Ric Menck (see the Springfields, below), but it's a wonderful record in its own right, and an excellent example of what Strum & Thrum intends to celebrate.

Written by John Brabeck & Ric Menck

John Brabeck: Electric & Acoustic Guitars, Vocals Ric Menck: Drums, Bass, Percussion, Vocals

Recorded by Michael Freeman at Remington Road Studios in Schaumburg, IL, 1983

A2 Start - Where I Want to Be







"Where I Want to Be" is the 2nd track from Start's fantastic lone LP. The trio from Lawrence, KS actually recorded with Allen Ginsberg while he and William S. Burroughs (the band's label mate on indic imprint Fresh Sounds) were residing in the college town. Prior to the LP, Start had released a DiY "in a post-punk vein before moving into more melodic territory. The band has a ton of great unreleased material from this era that we hope will see the light of day.

Written by Jay Francis, Shawn Kelly, Ric Lind

Jay Francis: Guitar, Backing Vocals Shawn Kelly: Keyboards, Lead Vocals Ric Lind: Drums, Backing Vocals

Recorded at Ramona Studios in Lawrence, KS, 1983

A3 Cyclones - I'm In Heaven





After a 1981 single on Little Ricky (home of fine discs by the Zantees and Smithereens), Donna Esposito managed one more EP, Out in the Cold under the Cyclones moniker. "Tm in Heaven" was culled from this disc, and Esposito's breathless, yearning chorus harkens back to classic power pop and girl-group sounds. Fortunately, the Cyclones were only the beginning for Esposito; her partnership with Frank Bednash has proven more stable than any band name they've chosen (Riff Doctors, Cowboy and Spin Girl, Mas Rapido, Toothpaste 2000).



Written by Donna Esposito; Modern Mood Music (BMI)

Donna Esposito: Lead Guitar, Vocals, Songwriter Marc Seligman: Bass Dan Reich: Drums

Produced by Mark Abel at Step Above Studios NYC, NY, 1983

A4 The Windbreakers - All That Stuff







Bobby Sutliff and Tim Lee formed this classic Beatles / dB's / Go-Between's songwriting and co-lead singing partnership with Lee's everyman baritone trading off perfectly with Sutliff's high-pitched Chris Bell-ache. Their five albums are loaded with classic pop songs and some of the coolest guitar sounds ever put to tape. We've selected the twangy "All That Stuff" from their 1985 debut LP Terminal on Homestead (produced by Mitch Easter) as an introduction. Tim Lee remains active with the Tim Lee 3, releasing CDs on his own Cool Dog Sound label, while Bobby Sutliff released a handful of gorgeous, jangly mini-masterpieces in the 'OOs.

Written by Tim Lee; Tim Lee Music (BMI) Administered by BMG-Chrysalis

Tim Lee: Guitar, Vocals Bobby Sutliff: Guitar, Vocals Fritz Martin: Bass, DMX Drums Randy Everett: Guitar

Recorded by Randy Everett at Rick Garner's Suburban Den, 1984

A5 Primitons - All My Friends







The 1985 debut EP by Birmingham's Primitons is one of the most college-y college rock records you'll ever hear. Concerning itself with romance, parties, stargazing, and other youthful musings, the disc is elevated by fantastic lyrics from non-performing member Stephanie Truelove Wright, and is one of Mitch Easter's best production jobs (the guitars, in particular, have a Big Star-y fire and crispness). "All My Friends" is the first of seven perfect cuts on that record. The band released an additional 12" and a full-length LP before splitting a few years later; get the whole thing on the 2012 Arena Rock Records CD Don't Go Away: Collected Works.

Written by Primitons

Brad Dorset: Vocals, Guitar, Piano Leif Bondarenko: Drums, Percussion, Accordion Mots Roden: Vocals, Guitar, Organ Stephanie Truelove Wright: Lyrics Garri Meighen: Vocals

Mastered by Greg Calbi at Sterling Recorders NYC, NY

A6 Bangtails - Patron Of The Arts







A trio of friends from the Kansas City Art Institute, the Bangtails made just one record, a 1987 EP called Hypnotic Downpour. It's a killer record thanks to the band's sharp, economical playing, a couple of legitimately great songs, and the emotionally devastating rasp of Mike "Winston" Swamp's vocals, evident on "Patron of the Arts." The Bangtails also appear on Live from Lawrence, a 1988 compilation sponsored by the Fresh Sounds label (see also: Start) and KJHK, The University of Kansas' college station. Bassist Archer Prewitt carved out a name for himself in the '90s indie scene, first with the Coctails and then with the Sea and Cake.

Written by Michael "Winston" Swamp

Archer Prewitt: Bass Michael "Winston" Swamp: Guitar, Vocals Mark "Slim" White: Drums

Produced by Archer Prewitt in Kansas City, MO, 1987

A7 The Love In - Late As Usual







Quite appropriate considering their roots in the Costa Mesa, CA's neo-mod band Jetz, there's a heavy '60s UK vibe running through the Love In's "Late As Usual." A bright infectious guitar sound, precise rhythm section, and a fine composition leads to something consistent with both American jangle and the UK equivalent, the C86 mini-movement. It's a real shame that they only managed one EP, as the Love In clearly had the goods.

Written by Tom Sheppard & Kurt Stake (BMI)

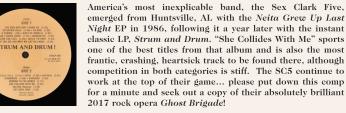
Kurt Stake: Bass, Lead Vocals Tom Sheppard: Guitar, Vocals Scott Kellems: Drums

Recorded at Adamo's Audio, Huntington Beach, CA, 1987

B1 Sex Clark Five - She Collides With Me







Written by James Butler & Rick Storey: James Butler/Rick Storey (BMI)



James Butler: Electric Guitar, Vocals Rick Storey: Acoustic Guitar Joy Johnson: Bass Trick McKaha: Drums

Recorded at Cavern Studios Huntsville, AL, 1987

B2 Three Hits - Five O'Clock





Working closely with producer Don Dixon (who presided over nearly as many jangle sessions as Mitch Easter), Raleigh's Three Hits produced a small but lovely body of work in the '80s. They released two singles (including one on Hib-Tone, making them label mates with R.E.M.) and a final mini-LP in 1989. "Five O'Clock" is a particularly lovely unreleased track making its debut here. While Three Hits faded gently at the end of the '80s, guitarist Michael Kurtz has continued to be a huge influence on indie music as co-founder of Record Store Day.

Written by Biddell/Kurtz/Valentine



Sheila Valentine: Bass, Vocals Jim Biddell: Drums, Keyboards, Vocals Michael Kurtz: Guitar, Vocals

Recorded at Mitch Easter's Drive-In Studio in Winston-Salem, NC, 1983

B3 Crippled Pilgrims - Black And White (Alternate Version)







D.C.'s Crippled Pilgrims got considerable love in the contemporary zine press during the mid-'80s, and their records still sound tough and relevant. Perhaps more interested in tension and the possibilities of electric guitar timbres than classic pop structures, they possessed a psychedelic bent that is readily apparent in the bracing instrumental coda of "Black and White," an alternate version of a track that opened their debut EP Head Down Hand Out (Fountain of Youth, 1984). These days, drummer Dan Joseph is an avant-garde composer who has studied with Pauline Oliveros and Terry Riley, among others; Mitch Parker has worked with Holiday (see "Change," below), Government Issue, and Tone - The Guitar Ensemble.

Written by Crippled Pilgrims

Jay Moglia: Guitar, Vocals Jay Spiegel: Drums Mitch Parker: Bass Scott Wingo: Guitar

Engineered/Produced by Don Zientara Recorded at Inner Ear Studio in Arlington, VA, 1983

B4 Vandykes - Breakin My Heart







Including two members who spent time in punk legends Unnatural Axe and La Peste, Boston's Vandykes took a turn into new wave territory in the early '80s. Their lone 45 is a fairly tough score these days, and it's hard to see why it didn't get a little more attention back in '84. "Breakin' My Heart" definitely jangles, but has an underpinning of UK post-punk; the minor key, foreboding result ticks a lot of the era's boxes. Unfortunately no additional releases followed, although Bassist Craig Kutner and guitarist Frank Dehler teamed up again in the short-lived Tall Paul, with one single on White Records in 1986.

Craig Kutner: Guitar, Lead Vocals Frank Dehler: Bass, Guitar, Vocals Roger Tripp: Drums

Produced by Vandykes Engineered by John Kusiak Recorded at Somerville Media Action Project, 1984 Cover art by Clif Lundberg

B5 Salem 66 - Seven Steps Down







Not necessarily a hotbed of jangle, Homestead Records was nevertheless the most significant US indie of the mid-'80s, and Salem 66 was one of the bands that helped them establish that reputation. Judy Grunwald (ex-Maps), Beth Kaplan, and Susan Merriam formed the core of this prolific, hard-touring Boston band, and their combination of literate lyrics and compelling guitar gauze had indie rock ramifications into the '90s and beyond. "Seven Steps Down" is the opening track from their eponymous debut EP. They recorded three more albums and a single in just a few short years; scavenging neophytes are pointed toward the compilation 1983-1987 (Your Soul Is Mine, Fork It Over).

Beth Kaplan: Bass, Lead Vocals Judy Grunwald: Guitar, Vocals Susan Merriam: Drums

Recorded at Air Sound Studio, Boston, MA, 1984

B6 The Outnumbered - I Feel So Sorry Now







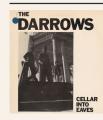
Speaking of Homestead, Champaign, IL's the Outnumbered were signed to the label after their 1983 debut single. "I Feel So Sorry Now" is from their 1985 LP debut Why Are All the Good People Going Crasy, and like much of the band's output, it has a punk and power pop edge peeking through the jangle. The Outnumbered released two more albums, and their hometown pals at Parasol Records released a retrospective in 1998 called Surveying the Damage. In the band's aftermath, singer Jon Ginoli went on to found the glad-to-begayest band of the past two millennia, Pansy Division, while drummer Kenny Golub joined Champaign's wonderful Weird Summer, another outfit with worlds of jangle cred.

Written by Jon Ginoli; Subculture Music (BMI)

Jon Ginoli: Rhythm Guitar, Lead Vocals Tim McKeage: Lead Guitar, Backing Vocals Paul Budin: Bass, Backing Vocals Ken Golub: Drums, Percussion

Produced by the Outnumbered and Willie Wells Recorded in Champaign, IL, 1985

B7 The Darrows - Is It You







More UK-leaning sounds from the Darrows, a Philadelphia combo. Their 1986 debut album, perhaps based more in post-punk than folk rock, and sporting glossier production than many of their peers, shows off a band of strong players and singers with a batch of songs that veer off well-trodden paths but remain accessible. Sadly, the Darrows had but one more release, a 1989 EP fittingly titled And It Goes.

Written by Derek Chafin

Derek Chafin: Vocals, Guitar Dan Silver: Bass Jon Cooper: Keys

Produced by Jon Cooper Recorded in Philadelphia, PA, 1986

> LP 1 Side B

C1 Riff Doctors - Say Goodbye



SAY GOODBYE (4. spotle)
TURN ARE GOMEN (1. spotle)
Recarded at Drive in Studio, N. C.

All spots copyright 1985 BM medern model music
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The Riff Doctors had only one proper release – an absolutely necessary 1984 7" on Coyote. But as great as that record is, it tells only a tiny bit of a long, ongoing story. Shortly after the single release, lead singer/guitarist Frank Bednash began his long partnership with Donna Esposito (see: The Cyclones) and their first collaboration was a scarce 1985 six-song demo tape, from which "Say Goodbye" is plucked. Naturally, it contains sweet vocals, melodies lifted from the finest '60s sources, and snappy, clean production. Some of the songs from this demo turned up on the first Cowboy and Spin Girl album on the UK label Subway Organization in 1988.

Written by Esposito/Bednash; Modern Mood Music (BMI)

Frank Bednash: Lead Guitar, Lead Vocals Donna Esposito: Lead Guitar, Lead Vocals Tom Shad: Bass Dave Rvan: Drums

Produced by Mitch Easter and Riff Doctors Recorded at Drive-In Studio, NG, 1985

C2 The Ferrets - She Was Unkind





In the early '80s there were a batch of American garage-revival bands (Vipers, Chesterfield Kings, Cynics, Lyres, etc.) who often co-mingled with the kinds of bands presented on Strum & Thrum, sharing sensibilities, stages, and occasionally band members. Rochester's the Ferrets were clearly inspired by '60s folk-rock, and the marvelous 12-string riff of "She Was Unkind" would have fit right in on one of Bomp/ Voxx's Battle of the Garages comps. The track appeared on their 1987 Jargon LP Angry Young Ferrets; also worth searching out is the band's lone 45 from a couple years prior.



Music by Jim Huie & Charles Lockwood; Lyrics by Jim Huie & Stan Merrell; Sea of Spoons Music (BMI)

Jim Huie: Vocals, Drums, Percussion Charles Lockwood: 6 & 12 String Guitars Pete Latham: Bass

Engineered by Dave Anderson Produced by Jim Huie, Charles Lockwood, and Dave Anderson Recorded at Saxon Studios, Rochester, NY, 1986

C3 28th Day - Pages Turn (Alternate Version)







Chico, CA's 28th Day started making noise on college radio charts via "25 Pills" from their 1985 self-titled EP, but unfortunately, that turned to be both debut and epitaph. If the sonics here aren't evidence enough to convince you that 28th Day deserves a place at the Paisley Underground roundtable, consider that the EP was produced by True West's Russ Tolman, and issued on his Bring Out Your Dead Records. Cole Marquis went on to form the noisier Downsiders and later made a couple of solo albums. Barbara Manning's impressive solo career began with 1989's Lately I Keep Scissors, an album which deserves benchmark status with regards to the transition from '80s college rock to 90s indie rock.

Written by Cole Marquis

Barbara Manning: Bass, Vocals Cole Marquis: Guitar Mike Cloward: Drums

Produced by Russ Tolman Recorded by Jim Keylor at Army Street Studios, San Francisco, CA, 1985

LP 2 Side C

C4 Great Plains - When Do You Say Hello?





Formed in 1982 in Columbus, OH, Great Plains were never strictly a "jangle" band or a "college rock" band. They certainly were not a "punk" band and probably not a "psychedelic" band either. What they were was a ramshackle rock machine that seemed to be taking the piss out of themselves, even as they wrote sweet, melodic gems like "When Do You Say Hello" from their debut EP, 1983's Mark, Don and Mel. The double CD Length of Growth 1981-1989 recounts the whole glorious mess and belongs in your home. Great Plains mainman Ron House has since had a rambling, fascinating career that we could never do justice to without several volumes.



Lyrics by Ron House; Music by Great Plains; Symbolic Gesture Music (BMI)

Ron House: Vocals, Guitar, Lyrics Hank O'Hare: Bass Robert David Green: Drums, Vocals Matt Wyatt: Guitar, Vocals Mark Wyatt: Keyboards, Vocals

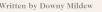
Engineered and Mixed by Fritz Mossman and Great Plains Recorded November/December in Columbus, OH, 1982

C5 Downy Mildew - Purple Parlor





From the very solid 1986 debut on Texas Hotel, the circular riff that runs through the moody "Purple Parlor" is quintessential jangle pop. L.A.'s Downy Mildew had the luxury of two effective lead singers in Charlie Baldonado and Jenny Homer, and their striking, moody post-punk sound evolved enough to keep them around well into the alternative era. They gained some attention with a couple of albums ("92's An Oncoming Train and "94's Slow Sky) on Windham Hill's High Street imprint before calling it a day.





Produced and Arranged By Downy Mildew Recorded by Rick Novak at Control Center Studios, Los Angeles, CA, April 1986

C6 The Strand - You And Me







Long championed by power-pop aficionados, the Strand's first and only effort, a LP entitled Seconds Waiting, spills out 10 gems in under half an hour and recalls other brilliant home brew pop albums like Black Vinyl Shoes and Where It's at With the Wind. "You and Me" is the opening salvo; a timelessly enjoyable ride follows. With all of their goals thus accomplished, there was no need for a second album.

Written by Jim Garner

Jim Garner: Bass, Lead Vocals Bill Lasley: Guitar, Lead & Backing Vocals John Hubbell: Drums

Produced by Hollis E.F. Williams Engineered by Steve Carr Recorded at Hit and Run Studios in Shady Grove, MD, 1984

c7 The White Sisters - Misery, Me, & You







Jeffrey Borchardt's White Sisters found a unique niche in the jangly mid-'80s, creating a couple of acoustic-driven singles whose jazzy chord changes and melodies recalled some of the more sophisticated UK guitar pop outfits of the time. "Misery, Me, and You" is from a 1986 single on Butch Vig's Madison-based BOAT Records & Tapes. There was a follow up in 1989, but by the late '80s, Borchardt had moved to Providence, RI and founded a new project, Honeybunch, which released a half-dozen singles between '89 and '92. During the latter part of this period he hooked up with Paul Chastain and Rie Menck in the newly minted Velvet Crush.

Written by White Sisters

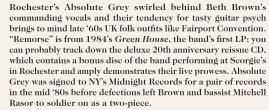
Larry Bethe: Drums Derrick McBride: Bass Jeffrey Borchardt: Guitar, Mandolin, Vocals

Recorded at Smart Studios in Madison, WI with Butch Vig. 1985 Analog to Digital transfer by Kraig Jordan at Plan of a Boy Studio, Providence, RI

D1 Absolute Grey - Remorse







Written by Rasor/Brown/Kitchen/Thomas (BMI)



Recorded by Dave Anderson at Saxon Recording, Rochester, NY, July-August 1984 Produced by Absolute Grey & Bob Martin



D2 One Plus Two - Promise





Holden Richards started One Plus Two as a side project to North Carolina punks the Pound Notes, who were active in the early 80s. Eventually One Plus Two became his main concern, debuting with a fairly elusive single before recording an EP and an album for Homestead in the mid-'80s. "Promise" is from 1985's *The Ivy* Room EP where it sits alongside five other similarly beguiling tracks, all of which feature Richard's compelling, earnest vocals and guitars that absolutely sparkle. Oh, by the way: Guitarist Eric Peterson has credits on records by the Wygals, Choo Choo Train, Snatches of Pink, the dB's and Tommy Keene and is currently recording and touring with Sarah Shook and the Disarmers.

Written by One Plus Two

Holden Richards: Guitar, Lead Vocals Susan Kent: Guitar, Vocals Rob Stuart: Bass Mary Clyde Bridgers: Drums

Produced and Recorded by Wes Lachot at TriTone Studios, Durham, NC, 1984



D3 The Springfields - Sunflower







After the Reverbs, Ric Menck, teamed up with Paul Chastain in a series of studio groups - Choo Choo Train, Bag o' Shells, The Big Maybe, the Springfields - that advocated a renaissance of '60s pop classicism and were tremendously influential on '90s pop bands. "Sunflower" was the first single on the imprint Bus Stop, which was the main source of missives from the Menck/ Chastain axis in the early '90s and is worth finding for the wonderful cover of the Hollies' "Clown" on the flip. Menck and Chastain eventually formed full-fledged rockers Velvet Crush, and Menck became simply one of the finest pop drummers that ever lived, working with Matthew Sweet, the Pernice Brothers, Liz Phair, etc.

Written by Ric Menck; Sony Songs Inc. / Lincoln's Mood Ring Music (BMI)

Ric Menck: Electric Guitars, Drums, Tambourine, Lead & Harmony Vocals Paul Chastain: Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar

Recorded by Willie Wells in Champaign, IL, 1985

D4 Holiday - Change







Before leading the cranky/sweet Magnapop through an ambitious release schedule in the '90s and '00s, Linda Hopper partnered with Lynn Blakely in a Washington, D.C. outfit dubbed Holiday. Hello, a lovely 1985 EP from whence the track here comes, blurs the lines between perky and melancholy in a way that recalls Let's Active's debut. By the by, Hopper was in an earlier band called Oh-OK, based out of Athens which included not only Matthew Sweet but also Linda Stipe, who was the sister

Written by Lynn Blakey; Henny Penny Music (BMI)



Linda Hopper: Vocals Mitch Parker: Bass Dan Buccino: Drums

Lvnn Blakev: Vocals, Guitar

Recorded by Steve Carr at Hit and Run Studios Rockville, MD, April 1985 Remixed by Lynn Blakey, Derrick Hsu, Steve Carr, August 1985

LP 2 Side D

D5 Pop Art - The Meeting







The Steinhardt brothers worked like dogs from their 1983 debut 45 through the end of the decade, releasing an EP and four albums and touring across the country. Lifelong musicians, their early releases had a coltish energy that was refined and polished shiny over the course of the next few years. Unfortunately, they never managed to get over the hump, but the 2000 retrospective Really Blind Faith: Retrospective 1984-1990 shows what they were capable of. "The Meeting" is a gently loping shuffle that gives plenty of space to Dave Steinhardt's tremulous, urgent vocal. You can find it on their first full-length album, A Perfect Mental Picture (1985).

Written by Jeff Steinhart and David Steinhart: Stonegarden Music (BMI)

Jeff Steinhart: Guitar David Steinhart: Vocals Richard Steinhart: Guitar, Vocals Tony Ortega: Bass Steven LePatner: Drums

Recorded and Produced by Ethan James at Radio Tokyo

D6 Reactions - Tomorrow's Time Today







What's more mod than a Batman sticker on your Rickenbacker? There are a few of us to whom the opening crash of "Tomorrow's Time Today" evokes the same instant rush as "Teenage Kicks" or "Go All the Way." That dirty chime runs through the song, underpinning a lyric that is so sincerely optimistic in its flowerpower imagery that it's almost comical. The result is one of the greatest indie singles of the decade, and yet you can probably score it for under a fin at your local grubby vinyl outlet. There was one more single, also on St. Valentine, and an EP on Homestead, and then Brian McCafferty went off to play in the Beatnik Termites, and Dave Swanson went off to play with half the bands in Ohio.

Written by Chuck Wagner & Dave Swanson

Chuck Wagner: Guitar, Lead Vocals Dave Swanson: Drums, Guitars Brian P. McCafferty: Bass, Backing Vocals

Produced and Recorded by Chris Burgess at The Beat Farm, Cleveland, OH, 1985

D7 A New Personality - Essential Things







A New Personality were an under-recorded Florida band led by brothers Brent and Darren Rademaker whose two singles are much in demand with fans of post-punk. "Essential Things" was the topside of the second single, a 12" issued in 1983. Clearly A New Personality loved then-current UK sounds; the rhythm section and soaring synths here are pure Factory Records, and the whole thing has a feel that would have given it flight in dance clubs. The Rademakers have compiled an impressive resume since then, including membership in the Tyde, the Summer Hits, and Beachwood Sparks.

Written by Darren Rademaker

Darren Rademaker: Vocals, Guitar Brent Rademaker: Bass, Vocals Steve Fisher: Drums Wylie Allen: Synthesizer

Produced by A.N.P. Recorded at Morrisound Studio, Tampa, FL, 1982

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LP 1

- A1 The Reverbs
 Trusted Woods
- A2 Start Where I Want to Be
- A3 Cyclones
 I'm In Heaven
- A4 The Windbreakers
 All That Stuff
- A5 Primitons
 All My Friends
- A6 Bangtails
 Patron Of The Arts
- A7 The Love In
 Late As Usual

- B1 Sex Clark Five She Collides With Me
- B2 Three Hits Five O'Clock
- B3 Crippled Pilgrims
 Black And White (Alternate Version)
- B4 Vandykes Breakin My Heart
- B5 Salem 66 Seven Steps Down
- B6 The Outnumbered I Feel So Sorry Now
- B7 The Darrows
 Is It You

LP 2

- C1 Riff Doctors
 Say Goodbye
- C2 The Ferrets She Was Unkind
- C3 28th Day
 Pages Turn (Alternate Version)
- C4 Great Plains
 When Do You Say Hello?
- C5 Downy Mildew Purple Parlor
- C6 **The Strand** *You And Me*
- C7 The White Sisters
 Misery, Me, & You

- D1 Absolute Grey Remorse
- D2 One Plus Two Promise
- D3 The Springfields
 Sunflower
- D4 Holiday Change
- D5 Pop Art
 The Meeting
- D6 Reactions
 Tomorrow's Time Today
- D7 A New Personality
 Essential Things