

INFO RIOT

EDITED BY BARRY LAZELL

RUSH HOUR

Rush's mysterious missing catalogue numbers



I SAY have you seen this chord 'ere, it's a killer

Ian Warren of Wimbledon asks:

"Can you help me solve the mystery of some apparently very elusive singles by **Rush**? I have the single numbered **RUSH 1**, which is 'Closer To The Heart', but the next one I can trace is **RUSH 7** - 'Closer To The Heart' again, but a four-track release with different songs on the rest of the record. After that, there was 'New World Man' (**RUSH 8**) and a couple more since, but what happened to **RUSH 2** to **6**? Were all these singles quickly deleted for some reason, or were some of them not issued at all? There doesn't seem any logical reason for jumping from **1** to **7** in a number sequence. To complicate things, there was also 'Tom Sawyer', which had a completely different catalogue number, **EXIT 7**. Can you make some sense out of all this and ease my frustration?" I don't know about easing frustration, but I can explain the strange numberings of Rush singles, partly because I had to do a bit of research work on the band's releases recently for their record



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The main fly in the ointment is 'Closer To The Heart' released on **RUSH 7**. This was the band's UK debut single, early in 1978, out at a point when they were being heavily promoted to break them into the big time (which worked, incidentally – every album since then has been a smash.) Because this was a special release, it wasn't put into a standard numerical series: the seven-inch release was numbered **RUSH 7** and the 12-inch equivalent **RUSH 12**. At the time, remember, it was the only Rush 45 in existence, so the numbers stood for exactly what they were.

Having established this system, Phonogram tagged along with variations of it on Rush singles over the next three years. The next release was 'Spirit Of Radio' in 1980; on seven-inch this was **RADIO 7**, while the 12-inch equivalent was **RADIO 12**. A year later came 'Vital Sign' – **VITAL 7** on seven-inch and **VITAL 12** on 12-inch. After this was the one you mentioned, the live cut of 'Tom Sawyer' from the 'Exit Stage Left' album, hence its catalogue numbers of **EXIT 7** (seven-inch) and **EXIT 12** (12-inch).

Come the end of 1981, with the *reissue* of 'Closer To The Heart', it was clearly decided to drop these individual prefixes and start a proper series for Rush singles – hence, **RUSH 1**. It may not have been until after this release that somebody remembered that there had been a **RUSH 7** three years earlier, and that the series would thus hit a problem in six singles' time. The solution chosen was the simplest of all – they skipped all the other numbers up to and including 7, and the next single 'New World Man' was issued as **RUSH 8**. The series has carried on from there, the most recent release being last year's '(The) Body Electric' on **RUSH 11**. Since **RUSH 12** was used in 1978 too, for the original 'Closer To The Heart' 12-inch, that may well be bypassed for the next single. On the other hand, nobody at the **Vertigo** label now may remember the fact! The more recent 12-inchers, by the way, have simply been numbered by tagging a 12 onto their seven-inch notation (so **RUSH 9** was **RUSH 912** on 12-inch, and so on), while the occasional picture discs get a '**P**' added to the **RUSH** prefix.

Anyway, that (I hope) solves the problem of the Rush singles that 'never were'.

RUSH are releasing a 'strictly limited edition' picture disc of their 'Power Windows' album on Phonogram this week. The album went silver within three weeks of release.