

SITUATION BUTANE No.1 - 'The thinking man's organ' (circa 1980)

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Piranhas SPLIT WITH VIRGIN

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The Piranhas signed with Virgin at the end of October, after an 8 month period of 'watching' by Virgin 'talent spotters'.

Originally the plan was that 'YapYapYap' be released on a distribution deal with Attrix Records, but Bob Grover's addiction to the Space Invaders game resulted in much enthusiasm for the song. This was presented to Virgin who leapt at the offer, since Virgin impresario Richard Branson has 36 of these machines! This triggered initial enthusiasm within the Virgin hierarchy, and the single was released on November 30th amidst much competition from the pre-XMas market. Airplay was limited due to lyrical content, (eg. the words Bloody and Sex) and Virgin never really pushed the record in way of compensation so once released the initial enthusiasm faded almost immediately.

The Piranhas contract contained an option of a long-term deal for a period extending to five years or 6 lp's, and within that period of time, Virgin could drop their option, but the band could not. However, in the interim period ending Jan 31st. it was then up to Virgin to either sign up the band for further releases or drop them altogether. The outcome of which was a negative attitude and the band were dropped. People in the business had been warning Virgin for a long time about their ridiculously large roster of bands, and they decided to bring certain bands for a part of the American market.

The Piranhas were informed at a late stage - ten days before the option was due - that they would be part of the British financial cutback. This was unfortunate since a concept ep. was planned by the band containing the songs "Boyfriend" "Love Game" "Coffee" and one other. Simon Draper, head of A & R said "LOVE GAME is my fave. number, and this ep. is a really good idea, I'm sure the Piranhas will be a successful band". The Piranhas were bemused by his dubious comments, and so due to a mass lack of enthusiasm and distribution the Piranhas were dropped... and the Virgin hype machine grinds on...

the Piranhas