



SEPTEMBER 1981

JEF LEFT

Jef Left is serious about having fun. The 24-year-old singer/songwriter/guitarist has taken what he calls "the surfnik approach" on his self-named vinyl debut. "The songs combine elements of surf music with rock," he explains. "There's a spirit in the lyrics that's derived from the Beat culture of the Fifties—that Bohemian lifestyle, that irreverence, that kind of wacky hipness.

"But the most important thing," he emphasizes, "is the element of fun. After all, that's what rock 'n' roll is all about."

Left's 12-inch EP features five new pop rockers that reflect this philosophy. The songs incorporate everything from social issues concerning the plight of the common man ("Street Survivor") and alienation ("Wound Too Tight") to less problematic dilemmas like a 16-year-old kid who needs wheels so he can score with the girls ("Girls In Cars"). But even on a serious issue like gun control, Left manages a dash of reckless whimsy: on "No Security" he takes a teenage surfer's point of view on the handgun controversy, instilling the subject with an arch irony.

Jef Left was recorded in a furiously fast three days. It was produced by Ron Moss and boasts A&M recording artist Robert Williams on drums and percussion, along with Peewee Hill on bass. Everything else was in Left's hands. The Southern California native is a firm believer in not wasting time: "You've got to get in there and have fun. You can't sit in the studio for a couple of months and belabor the issue."

Jef's EP reflects that sense of spontaneity and professionalism. His voice rings out with keen Anglo pop precision, his guitars chime with an alacritous energy. The result is a surge of swift, crashing tunes that are easy to feel good about.

Says Left: "I wanted the record to be something you can sing along with when you get up in the morning. I mean, who feels like listening to heavy metal when you're eating Rice Krispies?"

