



The Wittliff Collections

Southwestern Writers Collection

Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection

A Guide to the *It's Only Rock 'N' Roll* Collection 1978-1982

Collection 135

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ron Young
Title:	<i>It's Only Rock 'N' Roll</i> Collection
Dates:	1978-1982
Abstract:	<i>It's Only Rock 'N' Roll</i> was an indie music newspaper published in San Antonio from May 1978 to April 1982. The publication chronicled the rise of punk and New Wave music in San Antonio and Austin, reporting on national touring acts as well as local and regional rock 'n' roll, blues and heavy metal acts. Issues included record reviews, guest columns, nightclub listings and numerous photographs. Included are 44 issues, from March 18, 1978 through April 1982.
Identification:	Collection 135
Extent:	1 box
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research

Preferred Citation

It's Only Rock 'N' Roll Collection (Collection 135), The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Acquisition Information

44 issues donated by Nikki Young, 2018; in 2019, Chris Smart donated 3 issues: August & September, 1981 and March, 1982

Processing Information

Processed by Lauren Goodley, 2018

Notes to Researchers

All issues have been digitized and are available through the Wittliff's digital collections at <https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/7588>.

Biographical and Scope Note

Ron Young was the founder and publisher of the pioneering indie music newspaper *It's Only Rock 'N' Roll*. The longtime music journalist, songwriter and musician grew up in San Antonio, where he graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He studied journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. Young was an avid record collector and in the 1970s was a columnist and music critic at the daily newspaper *San Antonio Light*, and later a regular contributor to the *San Antonio Express-News*. The easygoing writer once described himself as the Bob Newhart of rock and roll. Young later moved to Nashville, Tennessee and became a published songwriter. He died in San Antonio from complications of cancer on May 11, 2017. He was 67.

It's Only Rock 'N' Roll was an indie music newspaper published in San Antonio from May 1978 to April 1982. The publication chronicled the rise of punk and New Wave music in San Antonio and Austin, reporting on national touring acts like Blondie, Elvis Costello, Patti Smith, the Ramones, the Clash and the Sex Pistols, as well as local and regional rock 'n' roll, blues and heavy metal acts. Issues included record reviews, guest columns, nightclub listings and numerous photographs. Included here are 44 issues, from March 18, 1978 through April 1982.

Note: The November 1980 issue was mislabeled as Volume 4, number 8.

Container List

It's Only Rock 'N' Roll Issues

Box 1

Volume 1

- March 18, 1978. Judas Priest cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- May 1978. Beach Boys cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- June 1978. Elvis Costello cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- July 1978. Full House cover (Ray Charles, Nick Lowe, Bruce Springsteen, Ann Wilson, Patti Smith [Click here for digital file.](#)
- August 1978. AC-DC cover; Patti Smith interview [Click here for digital file.](#)
- September 1978. UFO cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- November 1978. Cheap Trick, Talking Heads cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- December 1978. Sammy Hagar cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- February 1978. Van Halen cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- March 1979. Steve Martin cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- April 1979. Judas Priest, The Police cover [Click here for digital file.](#)

Volume 2

- May 1979. Doug Sahm, Heyoka, Toto cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- June 1979. Joe Jackson cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- July 1979. Badfinger, Triumph, AC-DC cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- August 1979. Sirius, Nazareth, Robert Fripp cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- September 1979. Battle of the Bands cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- October 1979. Joe King Carrasco cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- November 1979. Riot cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- December 1979. Scorpions cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- February 1980. ZZ Top cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- March 1980. Rush cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- April 1980. John Cale, Christopher Cross cover [Click here for digital file.](#)

Volume 3

- May 1980. Van Wilks, The Beat, Mahogany Rush cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- June 1980. 999, Grace Slick, Triumph, Alice Cooper cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- July 1980. Judas Priest cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- August 1980. Blue Oyster Cult cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- September 1980. Fleetwood Mac cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- October 1980. Graham Parker cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- November 1980. Ian Anderson cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
- December 1980. Bruce Springsteen cover [Click here for digital file.](#)

February 1981. Van Morrison cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
March 1981. Joe King Carrasco cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
April 1981. Chuck Berry cover [Click here for digital file.](#)

Volume 4

May 1981. Brave New Music Festival cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
June 1981. Bob Marley cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
July 1981. Iron Maiden cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
August 1981. Roky Erickson cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
September 1981. The Ramones cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
October 1981. Riot cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
November 1981. Echo and the Bunnymen, Psychedelic Furs cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
December 1981. King Crimson cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
February 1982. Critics Poll cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
March 1982. U2 cover [Click here for digital file.](#)
April 1982. Krayolas cover [Click here for digital file.](#)