

94 and Not Dead Yet: And I'll Bet They Get No Kick From Champagne Either

by [Reg Green](#) (September 2023)



Quartet, Benjamin Levy, circa 1975

It's a truism that pop music has become vulgarized since readers of *New English Review* first sang and danced to songs that rhymed Colosseum with Louvre Museum and Mahatma Gandhi with Napoleon brandy.

But by how much? Well, here's a clue.

When P.G. Wodehouse wanted to mock pop music in the 1930s (ah, yes, I remember it well, I hear you say) he brought out of his overflowing imagination an ever-so-slightly distorted reflection of how big bands styled themselves at the time. His version was 'Ben Bloom and his Sixteen Baltimore Buddies.'

Faced with the same need to find a name for a guitar-playing quartet to reflect the post-Ben era, {Private Eye, the British satirical magazine, gave birth to ... 'Spiggy Topes and the Turds.'

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