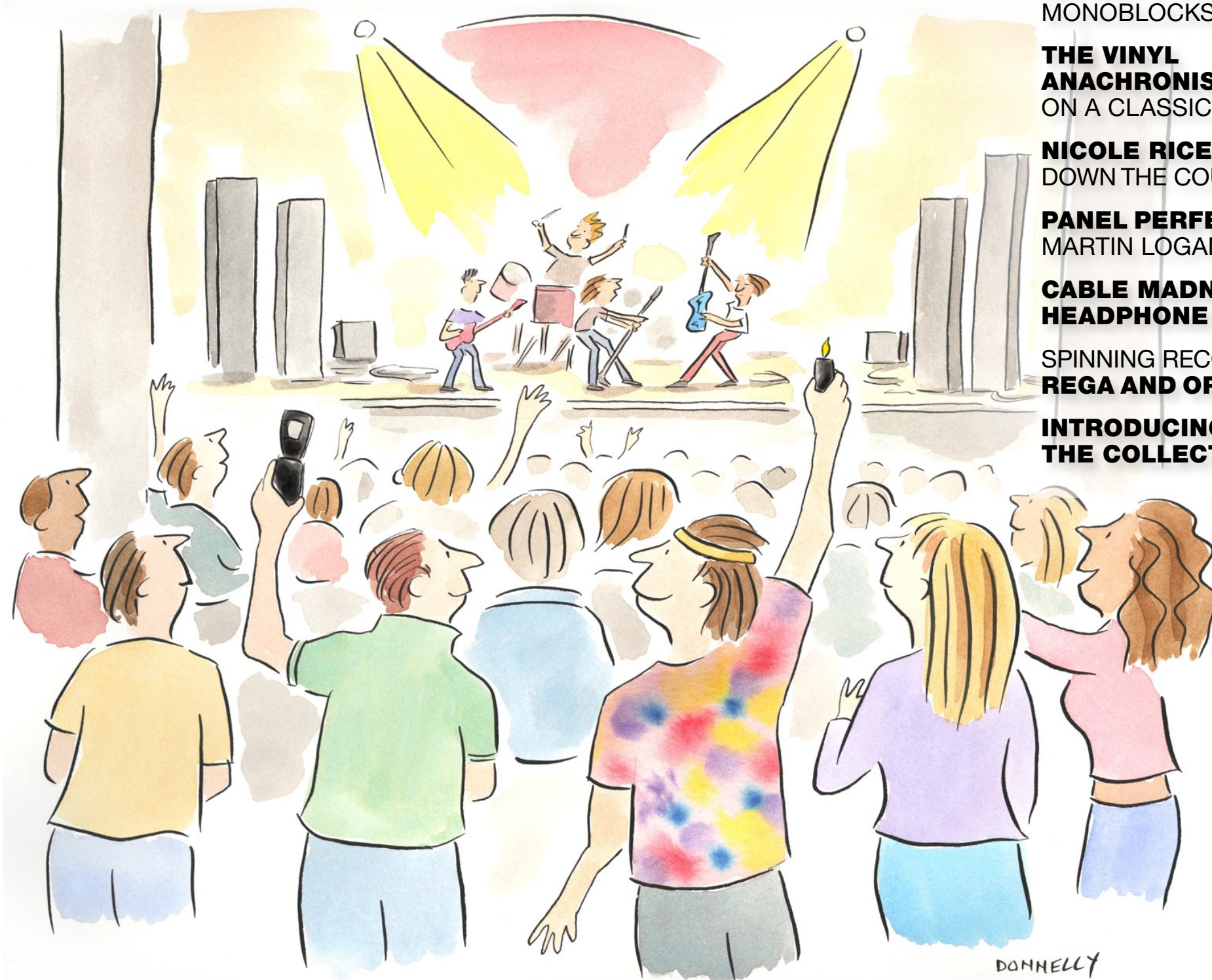


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TWO AMPS IN ONE!
MANLEY'S MONSTER
MONOBLOCKS

**THE VINYL
ANACHRONIST** SITS IN
ON A CLASSIC

NICOLE RICE HEADS
DOWN THE COUNTRY TRAIL

PANEL PERFECTION
MARTIN LOGAN VANTAGE

**CABLE MADNESS ON
HEADPHONE PLANET**

SPINNING RECORDS WITH
REGA AND ORACLE

**INTRODUCING:
THE COLLECTOR**

DONNELLY



The New Headphone Amp From Channel Islands

A few issues ago, we reviewed the VHP-1 from Channel Islands. If you aren't familiar with Channel Islands and its owner/chief designer Dusty Vawter, he makes great gear that offers a lot of performance for the dollar. His new version, the VHP-2 looks identical to the VHP-1, except the model number has changed. According to Dusty, the volume control has been upgraded to a better ALPS pot, a new gold plated circuit board 'And a few other things...'

In Channel Islands tradition, the price has stayed the same at \$349 – that's value!

Listening at Steve Hoffman's house, side by side with the VHP-1, the new model is definitely a step up. The thing we both noticed right away was the improved soundstaging of the new unit. Steve said 'What a difference! More dynamics, better soundstaging and an even quieter background make this one a real treat for serious headphone users. Make sure you get the matching power supply, it's cute!'

Don't know if Dusty will appreciate us calling his power supply cute, but it's better than a poke in the eye with a stick, right?

Seriously though, whether you have the VHP-1 or 2, I feel the power supply is essential. It really takes this amp to a much higher level. Transient slam is better, and the bass is definitely a lot punchier. What I really enjoy about adding the power supply is that it is a big jump in performance the minute you plug it in, you won't be struggling to hear what you spent another \$160 on. It's like dropping that Dinan chip in your BMW. The minute you floor it, you can feel it!

If you want to be a little more of a fanatic, try a better power cord on the supply. I used the DH Labs Power Plus (\$180) and it offered up a slightly less grainy presentation. This one is a bit subtler but it's that last push over the cliff if you just have to have more performance.

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There you go loyal readers. That's what we've been having fun with this issue. More headphone madness to come next time! ●

