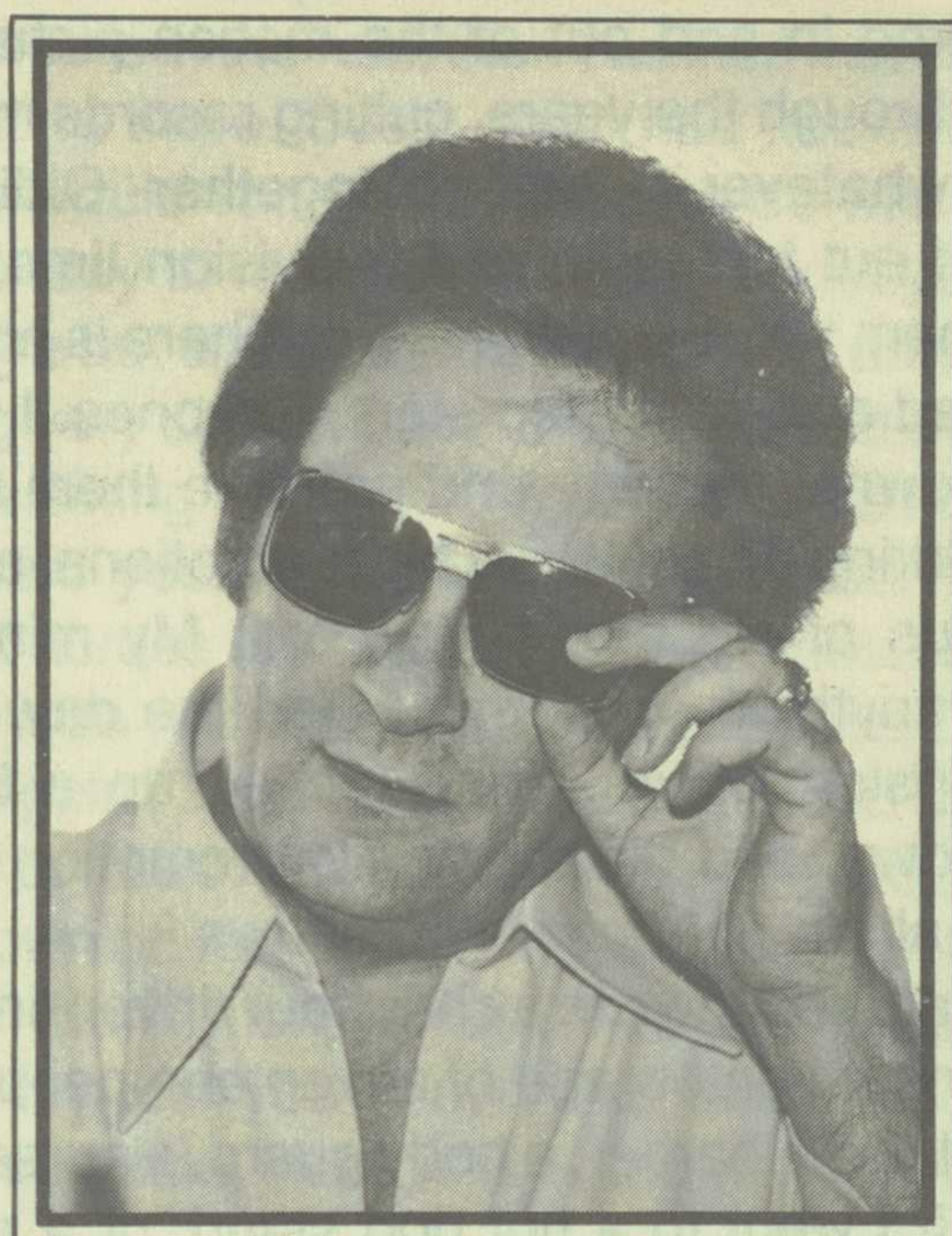




TONY ALAMO

“SIGNS OF THE TIMES”

I took the name of Tony Alamo a lot of years ago as a professional singer. The Italians were all making it as crooners at that time. (If the craze would have been for Oriental singers, my name would probably be Yak Sukiyaki.) I was born Bernie Lazar Hoffman; I am a Jew. My family were not particularly religious people. My father, an immigrant from Rumania, kept some of the Jewish tradition when we were very young, but in the part of the states where I was raised, there were very few Jews. We were continuously warned not to say we were Jews; to tell them in school that we were Rumanians. My mother and father said they would beat us up. To me, like all other Jews, Jesus Christ was the God of the Gentiles. He was an imposter, and it was because of him that Jews had been tortured and killed. I was told that the Gentile kids were Christians. That was why they would beat me up if they knew I was a Jew. That they blamed the Jews for killing Him. When I was a child I thought this was strange, since I did not even know Jesus or anything about him, that I could in a way be responsible for him. My father was a very talented man. He had been dance instructor for Rudolf Valentino and he also was a very talented artist.

As I grew up some of my friends were Gentiles whom I thought to be Christians. They drank in the same cocktail lounges I drank in, had the same thieving business practices I had, committed the same sins I committed, and if Jesus was their God and hadn't done any more for them than he had done, then I didn't need Jesus. I had enough problems of my own. I did not believe in God, much less Jesus Christ. My philosophy of life was, make all the money I could, do what I wanted to do, when I wanted to do it, without any regard for anyone. To me life was vile. The more money I made, the more grief I had. Money never bought me not even one moment of peace. The more I had, the more miserable I was.

I had absolutely no respect for women at all. Every one I encountered was worse than the one before. I actually hated them and decided for some reason I had been put here to punish them, because they were so evil. All my former friends break up now when they see little five-foot-two Susan bossing me around, and believe me, I listen and love it!

I know Jesus Christ is real. I know he is the Messiah. I know he is coming back to earth again. I know it because God told me so. Jesus was so far removed from my life; my sins were as the sands of the sea.

I went from crooner into the health studio business. I was vice-president in charge of promotion for a very large health