



N.Z. Listener

ROCK TV Television Blues

New Zealand television has always had a curious neglect for its rock audience. The early American pop shows that were shown here, "Shindig" and "Hullabaloo", reduced rock to a corny teen innocence which local shows like "Let's Go" and "C'mon" maintained. The basis for such shows was simple enough — local performers covered the top 20 hits, the latest records were played and all the while a team of go-go girls held the visual interest.

The same conservative attitudes to

rock on television remain today; the more serious rock shows are screened late at night while the early evening pop shows are usually coated with chorus girls and dancers. TV1's "Ready to Roll" and TV2's "Radio with Pictures" include films of overseas groups, rock as well as pop music, but both are shown out of regular viewing hours.

"Radio with Pictures", the most successful of the current shows, closely follows a format established by "The Grunt Machine". As TV1's

concession to the "heavy" rock audience, "The Grunt Machine" was the first rock show to do away with dancing girls and to show film clips of overseas groups exclusively. But it was screened on Friday nights at about half-past eleven, after the late night film, and ended its run in December last year after "poor ratings".

There were good reasons behind the fall in ratings. The Friday night film was usually some turgid WW2 romance, an obstacle course before "The Grunt Machine" and the show had little or no advance announcement of all the artists to appear each week. Its comperes' attempts to be hip were an embarrassment, and the whole show was often devoted to unedited film of one or two artists each week. More lately, in the face of competition from "Radio with Pictures", "The Grunt Machine" chose to repeat a film clip of Deep Purple in Japan which took the whole show and to devote an entire show to the G Band and the New Seekers, neither of whom would make the grade into "heavy" rock, and would be better with an early evening time slot.

"Radio with Pictures" seems to have learnt from the mistakes of "The Grunt Machine", but again it isn't screened until all the schoolkids are in bed and the cat has been put out — at about 11pm on Monday nights. No comperes though, and generally much shorter film clips.

"Ready to Roll" has been showing on Friday afternoons from 5.30-6pm; rock 'n' roll for the kids before Dad gets home. From June 25 "Ready to Roll" will be repeated on Saturdays at 6pm. Perhaps it will be upgraded to catch a Saturday audience but at present it still relies on a rehash of

the top 20 formula which has been the basis for virtually all New Zealand rock shows. Local performers — and whoever's playing out at the Wainui Tavern that week is certain to want to appear — sing current hits for most of the show, but there are three or four overseas film clips as well. While these film clips are usually repeated on "Radio with Pictures", "Ready to Roll" has occasionally been worth the rush home — I remember seeing the Kinks playing "You Really Got Me" once last year.

The real pity is that neither channel has grabbed overseas shows such as "Soul Train" and "The Old Grey Whistle Test" which are syndicated throughout the world. Segments from both shows occasionally appear on either "Ready to Roll" or "Radio with Pictures". And record companies here must have film piled high in their warehouses; recent film clips that aren't likely to be shown outside the company offices and valuable old film that would make interesting viewing. Instead, "Ready to Roll" and "Radio with Pictures" are filled with the more popular artists, most of whom don't really need the extra publicity and who are often without the visual interest to warrant constant repeating.

But that's the state of play at present, and both channels seem unwilling to risk trying a serious rock show along the lines of "Radio with Pictures" at prime time. So, kiddies, outside of "Ready to Roll" and "Radio with Pictures" for the moment anyway you'll have to make do with the annual Grammy awards and as many Abba specials as you can take.

Jeremy Templer.

MORE SMALL STUFF

Continued from page 2

featuring Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band and produced by Springsteen guitarist Miami Steve van Zandt. . . . **Supercharge**, British soul band, have undergone a massive personnel reshuffle. Seems Virgin, their record company, persuaded sax player and vocalist Albie Donnelly and guitarist Les Karski to dump the rest of the band. All good clean rock and roll fun. . . . Next album from Mrs Trudeau's friends the **Rolling Stones** will almost certainly be a live set. To complete recording for the album they played the El Mocambo Club in Toronto and as pay, took only the bar takings. How much? \$371. . . . **James Taylor** is currently working on a new album with Peter Asher, producer for Linda Ronstadt and Andrew Gold. . . . **Pete Townshend** and **Ronnie Lane** are working on a duet album. Guests include Charles Watts on drums and a certain E. Clapton.

. . . **Emerson, Lake and Palmer** are at present touring the States with 125 people in tow. Seems they're not all road crew however, for this entourage includes an orchestra and chorus of seventy. . . . **The Ramones** have cut a surfing single called "Sheena Is A Punk Rocker". . . . The **Save The Whale** concert held in Tokyo (also known as the Rolling Coconut Revue) with Jackson Browne, Country Joe and John Sebastian regrettably lost \$200,000 . . . and while we're on the bad news famed Memphis bluesman **Bukka White** died on February 26th aged 67. . . . David Bowie currently touring the States as piano player in Iggy Stoooges band. . . . The late Paul Kossoff's band Back Street Crawler are now called just **Crawler**. The line-up, too, has changed and now features Terry Wilson-Slesser on vocals, Rabbit Bundrick on keyboards, Geoff Whitehorn on guitar, and Tony Braunagel on drums. . . . **Paul Mauriat** has re-issued and discofied his greatest hit under the title "Love Is Still Blue". I can hardly wait. . . . Veteran big band leader **Woody Herman** is recovering from a car smash in which his right leg was fractured . . . ex-King Crimson sax player **Ian McDonald** is now playing with the group Foreigner. . . . The **Temptations** have left Motown Records and are now signed to Atlantic. Another bit of the Motown Empire gone. . . . Not content with letting his older brothers make the money, youngest Gibb brother **Andy** has a single climbing the US charts. The song is cowritten with big brother Barry. . . .

Procul Harum have a new keyboards player Pete Solley . . . Also ex-Elton John bass player, Dee Murray, is filling in for regular bass player Chris Copping who recently collapsed from exhaustion after a tour. . . . **Festival Records** in NZ have now bought the rights to distribute Zodiac Records. This includes current single from Murray Grindlay and an up-coming release from Hello Sailor. . . . **Steely Dan** now working on new album to be titled "Aja". It's set for June release in the US and features such underworked musicians as Larry Carlton, and Joe Sample from the Crusaders, Wayne Shorter from Weather Report, Jim Keltner from everywhere, together with Bernard Purdie & Tom Scott. . . . **Renee Geyer's** new album *Moving Along* recorded in Los Angeles with producer Frank Wilson, known for his work with Eddie Kendricks, Stevie Wonder, and Diana Ross among others. On the album the First Lady of Oz soul uses musicians from Stevie Wonders backing band Wonderlove (expect to see Renee Geyer here in July) . . . ah almost forgot the Punks. At recent concert in London with punk bands **The Clash** and **The Jam**, the front 200 seats were destroyed by boisterous fans . . . new punk trio **The Jam** apparently wear mohair suits and ties and use Rickenbacker guitars. S'funny I seem to have heard this all before somewhere?? . . .

Wilko Johnson star guitarist of Dr Feelgood has quit the band although he is featured on their new album "Sneaking Suspicion". He's forming a new band with various London pub-rockers. . . . **Linda McCartney** is about to release a solo single. . . . **Nils Lofgren's** new band has his brother Tom on guitar, together with Wornell Jones on bass and Dave Platshon on drums. . . . Genesis drummer Phil Collins has quit his job with jazz-rock band **Brand X**. Seems his heavy workload with Genesis prevents him from continuing. Replacement is LA based Joe Blocker who has worked with Bobby Womack and Jean-Luc Ponty . . . yet another new John Mayall band. This one has Soko Richardson on drums, Edmund Lee on bass and James Smith on guitar. This boy changes his bands faster than he changes socks. . . .



SECOND HAND RECORDS
436 QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND

We welcome and support **RIP IT UP** and
we wish the magazine great success.

ROCK TV

Alan Galbraith Slams TV

Beyond the mere famine of rock on TV, some people have expressed serious doubts about the way local television has presented rock music when it has put it on the box.

Alan Galbraith is well known in the entertainment business. A record producer, manager, and occasional TV personality, he voices concern about the way TV in New Zealand has approached rock music. As he sees it, TV has approached the music not on its ground but by trying to force rock into an homogenised format.

"What they've done is to stick to a format of shows which Kevan Moore did very successfully ten years ago and they haven't budged since. They get hold of an entertainer with a reasonable amount of talent and offer them television work which they say will promote you. They don't pay you anything to speak of and you do it because it will promote you.

"But promote you for what? They turn you into the average New Zealand television performer and they all come out looking the same. It's criminal.

"No one's allowed to go on and do what they do best. Artist's who've had an original image have had it drummed out of them as soon as

they got onto TV. Original singers are turned into all-round entertainers. You could have a totally original act, but you don't do that. You do it the way they want you to do it and they just don't know."

Alan Galbraith, however, doesn't totally blame TV for their lack of imagination in presenting music. "To some extent TV does come in at the end of things. At the moment, there's just too few people going out and putting on an entertaining show, and there has got to be a vital live entertainment scene for TV to pick up on. I mean you could count on the fingers of one hand the people who've tried to put on a show — Dragon, Split Enz, Mark Williams . . . but who else?"

"But it still seems that there's just a lack of creative control and ability in television light entertainment. They just don't seem to be able to look at someone who is an original talent and say that it's worth us pushing that along and I believe that that sort of thinking has caused a real problem in our entertainment scene.

"Television to me has been one of the prime instigators in the ruining of the local entertainment scene. They should really be ashamed of themselves."