

Sire recording artists, **Talking Heads** are coming to town. The band is performing in Dunedin — June 2, Christchurch — June 4, Wellington — June 5 and Auckland — June 6. Their current album, *More Songs About Buildings and Food* is at number 12 on the NZ sales charts, after 10 weeks on the chart. That is pretty good for an intelligent New York rock band that is known for pleasing music critics and live audiences not for selling large numbers of records. After New Zealand, Talking Heads will tour Australia.

If you don't believe Talking Heads will come, then you won't believe that **Dolly Parton's** new album is called *Balls of Fire* or that Dolly will perform one concert at Auckland's Town Hall on July 11. The primary purpose for her lighting tour of Japan, Australia and NZ is to promote her recordings and to plan for a more extensive tour next summer.

After turning hundreds away from their final show in Auckland, New Zealand's own, **Split Enz**, are back on the road for three days. Enz have rehearsed new tunes and changed their clothes, stage clothes, that is. They will perform at the Auckland Town Hall — Friday May 25, Palmerston North Opera House — Saturday May 26, and Wellington Town Hall — Sunday May 27.

While chatting about kiwi blood, **Midge Marsden** (of Country Flyers fame), returns to NZ with the **Phil Manning Band**. A four day tour takes place in May to promote an extensive late June tour. They will perform at the Christchurch Town Hall — May 6, Canterbury University — May 7, Last Resort Cafe — May 8 and Auckland's Gluepot — May 9.

The September **Dire Straits** tour has been postponed until March next year. **John McLaughlin** tours in June with The One Truth Band. He plays Auckland Town Hall — June 26, Wellington Town Hall — June 27, Dunedin Regent Theatre — June 29 and Christchurch Town Hall — June 30. A new album *Electric Dreams* will be released to coincide with the tour. If you have not noticed, the **Burton Cummings** tour was cancelled.

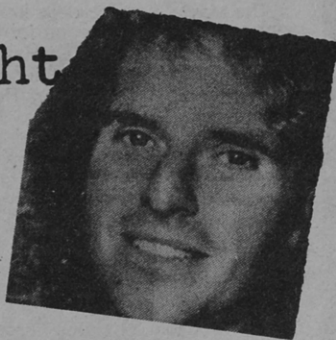


THE GREAT STIFF COMPETITION

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Post your entry by Monday May 28, to *Rip It Up*, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.

Wright
- On
the
line



It's pretty crazy trying to interview a stranger thousands of miles away on a bad-line telephone. But we persevered. I called him Gary, he called me John. Friends via the magic cable.

Gary Wright graduated from New York University in 1965 then enrolled in Berlin University for a post-graduate course in psychology. It didn't last long, he concentrated

instead on his main love in life — music. After fronting a number of bands he ended up in England where he formed Spooky Tooth, who went on to become one of England's most popular acid bands. The group stayed together, on and off, up until 1974. The following year saw Gary Wright turn pop star with the international success of the single and album "Dream Weaver". Since then he has led a four-piece (three keyboards, one drummer) band that has, if not inspired critics at least confounded them. His latest album, *Headin' Home*, however, features guitars and horns, back-up vocals c/o Crosby & Nash, while still retaining the Wright trademark of layered keyboards.

The new album seemed an obvious starting point for the interview. "I just wanted to open up my sound a little", Gary says. "I got a little tired of everything being the same texture of sound, too much keyboards. I wanted to include real instruments and nothing can really replace the guitar."

Headin' Home is a far cry from the Spooky Tooth days. Wright, I suggest, is now aiming at

a more commercial market. He disagrees: "I'm not aiming totally at a pop audience. I like to aim at as broad an audience as possible. Music has gone a lot more progressive but you can only get so progressive and still get played on the radio".

Ah, so you are aiming at the pop audience? "No. I'm not just a pop artist. I just became labelled as such because I had a hit single. But I've got my own style. I try to make my music accessible, I like to please people but I keep my own style."

Talking to a Sixties veteran the topic of New Wave naturally came up. "I don't see New Wave as competition," says Gary. "it's all a matter of taste. There is no particular direction, there are many kinds. New Wave has not caught on in the States in a big way. Disco is the biggest direction at the moment."

Gary Wright is embarking on a world tour later this year and NZers may have the chance to see how he holds up in the new decade when he hopes to visit here early next year.

John Dix

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who produced Lene Lovich's album?

2. What town does Rachel Sweet come from?

3. Who is wearing the Stiff T-shirt in the above photo?

4. What is the title of Ian Dury's second album?

5. Complete the slogan (imaginatively) — If it ain't stiff, it ain't

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