



B52s

The B52s
Warner Bros

You should buy this record immediately. If, come the summer, it isn't sitting pretty in your record collection you'll be hopelessly uncool; absolutely *no-one* will invite you to beach barbecues anymore. The B52s are as fashionable as Kate and Cindy's go-go boots and you've got to be 'in' to win.

The truth of the matter is that The B52s' album is not all that the hype promises. It is new and fun and danceworthy; a knock-out it isn't.

Almost a year ago the B52s — three men, two women, from Athens, Georgia — broke in the US with a single called "Rock Lobster". It was an idiosyncratic but catchy bit of whimsy and seems to have formed the masterplan for this album.

Repetition is not always a bad thing. Here, it means that "606-0842", "52 Girls" and "Dance This Mess Around" are all beaut little dancers. It also provides a continuously pulsing drumbeat and hollow, but mostly appealing, Goldfinger-type keyboards throughout.

On the other hand, the lyrics are repetitive and silly rather than funny. The delivery is flat and toneless: the girls are the worst offenders, at times sounding like a distorted hybrid of Kate Bush and Patti Smith.

But, for all that, they've got some crazy sense of rhythm that taps those toes without even trying. Looking like they do — bouffants for the girls, Yankee tourist get-up for the boys — they've just got to be faddish, but that doesn't mean they can't be fun too.

Louise Chunn

X-Ray Spex
Germ Free Adolescents
EMI

X-Ray Spex were my first live acquaintance with the new wave, during a brief visit to London.

I dragged an equally inquisitive mate along to Islington's notorious Hope and Anchor, one of the birthplaces of the sound, to investigate this punk phenomenon.

In the basement of the Hope, which makes Zwines look like Mainstreet, we squeezed up amongst about 100 other sweaty souls to be assailed by Poly Styrene's vocals, backed by three-piece thrash combo and sax.

It was here too, that I first experienced the Pogo. In such a confined space, you either join in or get flattened. Try doing it with a pint in your hand. Lotsa fun and a free shampoo to boot.

At that stage, the Spex only had about six numbers in their repertoire, including the now-classic "Oh Bondage, Up Yours", which they did twice to fill in time. An experience it certainly was.

Ah, but that was back in '77, when punk was in its heyday. The Spex now have a string of hit singles under their belt, they've played in the States, Poly's had a nervous breakdown, barely at the age of 20, and it's 1979.

Adolescents has taken too long to record, and so spiky-top faves like "Identity", "Artificial", and "The Day The World Turned Dayglo" sound a little dated now, though they still retain all their original power.

On the title track and "Warrior In Woolworths", where a change of tempo is introduced, along with fresh ideas, X-Ray Spex show that they haven't been left behind, unlike many of their contemporaries from the early days.

This album, then, provides the Spex with a clean slate. Providing they follow the new directions evident here, and Poly keeps her head together, Britain could have its own Blondie.

Duncan Campbell

SPECIAL LIMITED EDITIONS

CHEAP

Virgins

ONLY \$7.99*

THE RUTS
"THE CRACK"

SKIDS: Days in Europa



V2138/TCV2138

SKIDS "DAYS IN EUROPA"

COWBOYS INTERNATIONAL
— "THE ORIGINAL SIN"

Cowboys International
The Original Sin

V2136/TCV2136

"The Crack" — the explosive debut LP by The Ruts, charted in Britain at No. 16 only 2 weeks after release. Featuring their Top 5 UK single "Babylon's Burning" Record Mirror acclaimed it as: "a pure package of rareness". Sounds stated: "The Crack" is a fine album, The Ruts are an inspiration and they're going to grow!" You bet! The Ruts have all the ingredients of a classic band who are destined to become a cornerstone of rock music in years to come.

The Skid's debut "Scared To Dance" was described by Gordon Campbell in The Listener as "my bet for the best debut LP so far this year." With their 2nd album "Days In Europa" The Skids retain the qualities that made their debut one of the year's best. "Days In Europa" is a masterful album — The Skids stake their case as a true progressive band.

With "Coming Up For Air" the brilliant second LP from Penetration, firmly established in the Top 50 UK album chart, the band's hard work and enthusiasm has paid off. Pauline uses her voice with more passion and point than ever before. "A crackling, quicksilver, constant happening ... Penetration will pull you up, up, up." (Sounds)

Soon-to-be-discovered geniuses Cowboys International are Ken Lockie (writes the songs),

*Recommended Retail Price is not \$8.99

LOOK FOR THIS STICKER

MARKETED BY



PO BOX 3825, AUCKLAND NZ.



V2132/TCV2132

PENETRATION
COMING UP FOR AIR



V2131/TCV2131

PENETRATION
"COMING UP FOR AIR"

FINGER PRINTZ
"THE VERY DAB"



V2119/TCV2119

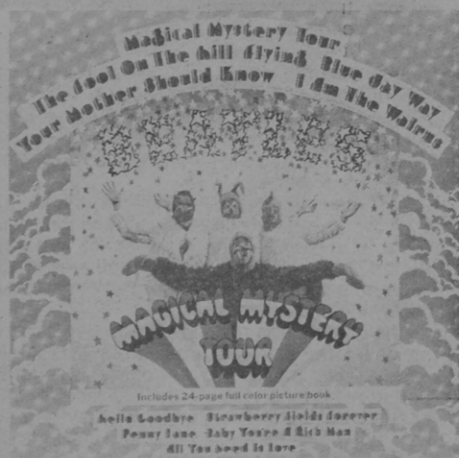
Terry Chimes (used to be with the Clash), Jimmy Hughes (with The Banned) and Alan Rawlings (with nobody in particular.) Their story begins with a superb debut album "The Original Sin" acclaimed by Record Mirror as "THE debut album of the year. Brave, original, almost certainly unique, but no amount of journalistic jargon can properly communicate how superb the "Original Sin" really is unless you've listened to it."

Fingerprintz, a sensational new band from South London who recently received considerable acclaim in the States where they toured with Rachael Sweet. "The Very Dab" their first album features 11 songs written by lead vocalist/guitarist Jimmie O'Neill (who wrote Lene Lovich's hit "Say When").

Five brilliant albums at only \$7.99. Now doesn't that sound great?

You Should Not
Pay More Than
\$7.99
For This Album

NOVEMBER EXCLUSIVE IMPORTS



THE BEATLES
Magical Mystery Tour
(with colour booklet)



DEEP PURPLE
The Mark 2 Purple Singles
(in purple vinyl)

LATEST EMI SHOP IMPORTS

For a long time the "Magical Mystery Tour" (with the colour booklet) has not been available in New Zealand. A limited number have been imported by The EMI Shop. Also available now is the Deep Purple compilation. "The Mark 2 Purple Singles" — in purple vinyl! The album features popular tracks such as "Smoke on the Water" and some previously unreleased material.

ONLY AVAILABLE AT

THE EMI SHOP

AUCKLAND FLOOR 1, 246 QUEEN ST.
AUCKLAND DOWNTOWN CENTRE
TAURANGA 50 DEVONPORT ST.
ROTORUA TUTANEKAI ST.
TAIHAPE 85 HAUTAPU ST.
NAPIER CNR EMERSON & DALTON STS.
HASTINGS 247 HERETAUNGA ST.
LOWER HUTT 174 HIGH ST.
CHRISTCHURCH 129 CASHEL ST.

CHRISTCHURCH SHADES SHOPPING
CENTRE, CASHEL STREET.
WESTPORT PALMERSTON STREET
DUNEDIN 242 GEORGE STREET
DUNEDIN 261 GEORGE STREET
CHRISTCHURCH 731 COLOMBO ST
WELLINGTON 106 CUBA MALL
NEW PLYMOUTH 32 DEVON ST EAST.

The EMI Shop

Specialists in Complete Catalogue and Imports