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FROM

Brett Sherriff

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'NEIL FINN' FROM PAGE 14

thing like 'The Devil you Know' is about what would've happened if ... It's conscience too. I envy people who don't have a conscience, who can just race through life and do whatever they like without feeling guilty about hurting people on the way. Because we grew up in a very close family and there was a religious thing there, no matter how much I rebel I'm still locked into that conscience thing. Most of the time I think having a conscience is pretty good but you get these frustrations that I can get out through songs like 'No Mischief' and 'Bullet Brain' and 'Cactus Head'.

Both of those songs are about politics? "Yeah, they're both general because I don't know enough about politics to be specific. I hate musicians who write about issues they don't know enough about. I wanted to get an every-man frustration across about politics. So there is a lot of frustration in my songs and one would ask why I don't do something about it instead of whinging all the time."

Would the Real Neil Please Stand up?

Introductions and personal assessments have been left till last.

Neil Finn now twenty-five, joined Split Enz as a result of, "pure nepotism" (his words, he was joking) back in 1979. His songwriting talents have saved Split Enz's sales although he couldn't salvage the wrecks of *Waiata* and *Time and Tide*. *Conflicting Emotions*, by his own admission, was confused despite containing some of the best songs Split Enz has ever recorded. Just over eighteen months ago Finn was married and last year he became a father. Consequently 'Our Day'.

"The song itself, like most things on *Conflicting Emotions*, became something different in the studio. Originally it was quite up but we discovered that the verse had a really unusual atmosphere by leaving it empty."

Marriage must have restricted the freedom to tour?

"No. I would resent it if it did. Sharon's very

understanding and she has no desire to come on the road and I don't want to have a traditional marriage in that respect. A lot of bands break up when people get married but I was determined that wouldn't happen."

What would Neil Finn have done without Split Enz?

"I would've been a musician. I've often wondered that. Joining Split Enz means I've learnt a lot of lessons that probably would've taken me years to learn otherwise."

"I wonder if it would be good for me to do something else, to start something with my own stamp."

George Kay

'SIMPLE MINDS' FROM PAGE 8

through a good band. I don't believe in the vanity in rock — the 'this is us and this is our songs'. I think either you're a band and good comes through you or it doesn't. It comes through them and recently I've been thinking it comes through us. You get a strength from that. Music's a force and inspiration's a force as well. I can't stand the vanity in rock — I don't like Ian McCullough or people like that. I think his band's great but I think he's a joker because he thinks it's him and I know it's not. That's just vain to think that."

This interview could have rolled on for a good deal longer but it was interrupted when Kerr was called to go backstage to prepare for the show. I was a fan before I started but 15 minutes with him engendered a new respect.

Simple Minds' unfocused spirituality shapes their music. It's a bright, youthful philosophy but it's not empty-headed. It's a simple matter of being sure never to reject anything out of hand, don't work on prejudice. The sheer joy of reaching out and touching everything there is to reach out and touch expressed in 'Up On the Catwalk' evokes its new face.

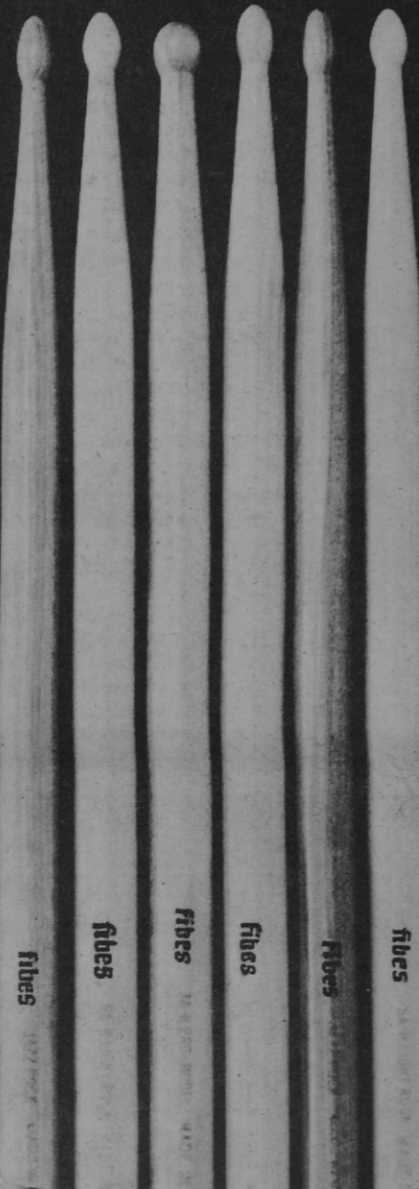
As they said — and it doesn't matter when — EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

Russell Brown

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23 'Radio B Party', Ak	7	Christchurch
24 Rotorua	8	Lincoln College, ChCh
25 Massey Uni, P. North	9, 10	Dunedin
27 Hawera	12-17	ChCh
28 Wanganui	19, 20	Wellington
29 Napier	21, 22	Hawera
March	23	Astoria Ballroom, P. Nth
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