



Letters

Dissent From A Loyal

I've just finished reading your March issue. One lousy story on a New Zealand band. If you are now just a fanzine for overseas artists why don't you just change the name to *Smash Hits*?

Sure, your Motown lowdown was good and the John Peel story essential but we are living in New Zealand and we still have a music industry that is struggling to survive. Your continued support is vital, and, by the way, of great interest to your loyal readership.

What about more stories on newer bands — there are still some working for bugger all.

You could also put a Kiwi band on the cover occasionally (and yes I do remember the Dance Exponents — and even the Newmatics). Here's to another six years.
Peter Bennett Auckland

Hair And Other Styles

I see the same small group of critics repeating their own personal philosophies in *Rip It Up* every month. What about getting some more writers who are fascinated by music, not just in justifying Jordan Luck's hairstyle (just because Russell Brown met him and he's not as bad as he thought he'd be) or Martin Phillips' dream-like qualities.

It's time *Rip It Up* crawled out of its dull perspective. The Rumours column in particular is a pathetic excuse for informative journalism. The same crappy small-time coverage has never been extended. Local music is still treated as unimportant compared to the treatment given to overseas acts. For instance, where was the coverage of the Great Unwashed tour in your February issue?

Irate Member of Reading Public South Island

Speaking as the scribe who painstakingly constructed a suitably

salivatory piece on the Unwashed I can assure you that the omission was purely accidental. It got lost ... RB

Rough Logic

It is most heartwarming to see that support for New Zealand music is still running high. Even My MYX's sad attack on Mark Bell (March *RIU*) failed to conceal his underlying admiration.

His metaphors give him away: "Parasites ..." — a parasite is an "interested hanger-on that uses its source for nutriment." Coconut Rough, on the evidence of their work are a particularly healthy parasite.

"Aural deodorant ..." — well that one's obvious. To deodorise is to "rid of smell." With all the "smell" on our airwaves at the moment the aural deodorant is a welcome thing indeed. My sympathy to Jenny.

The Plot Thickens Auckland

The Voice of Sweet Reason

Who the fuck do these record reviewers think they are? I'm talking of course about the reviews given for the Cure's *Japanese Whispers* and Glove's *Blue Sunshine*. If you don't like the sound of Robert Smith's voice don't listen to the fuckin' records.
Irate Cure Fan Te Puke



UK & USA

The Cramps continue to have guitarist problems. Axeman of one month's standing, Ike Knox, has left the band ... rumours are that Mark E. Smith has been turning down film roles ... Aretha Franklin has been prevented from touring by a curious ailment that makes her unable to fly without getting vertigo ... Alternative Television are back; or original leader Mark Perry is anyway ... the British Phonographic Institute appears to be making headway in its campaign to have a levy imposed on blank tapes which could as much double the price of cassettes in Britain ... Gang of Four have reunited briefly for farewell gigs before going their separate ways for good ... singer Guggi has left Ireland's Virgin

Prunes. There will be no new member brought in and Gavin Friday will take over vocals ... the Adicts have signed up with Sire Records and at the same time adopted the more marketable name ADX. They have a single 'Tokyo' out soon ... robot maker Mark Pauline is to build an eight-foot walking machine for an Einstürzende Neubauten video. The clip will be filmed in the Mojave Desert ... Virgin UK has brought out a music industry board game called Hype. Lots of bribery, corruption and rock'n'roll but no sex or drugs.

Elvis Costello is playing one-man shows with only an acoustic guitar in the american clubs and colleges at the moment but there's a good chance he'll team up with the Attractions again for a sortie into this part of the world. His new album (on which Richard Thompson helped) is due out in June ... the long-awaited second Human League LP has been completed and the first single is 'Lebanon'.

Albums: Style Council *Cafe Bleu*, Dire Straits *Alchemy* (live), Scott Walker *Climate of Hunter*, Soft Cell *This Last Night in Sodom*, Cars *Heartbeat City*, Dollar Brand *Zimbabwe*, Bobby Womack *The Poet III*, Doctor John *Such A Night*, Robert Gori *Night Full of Tension*.

Auckland

About 2900 fans packed into Auckland's Logan Campbell Centre for the Dance Exponents' farewell gig recently. Both the Exponents and support the Mockers were received enthusiastically and the concert culminated in something of a stage invasion. The Exponents are now in Australia seeking their fortunes.

With the Neighbours no longer a going concern, Sam Ford has reformed his Verandah Band for a short, light-hearted tour. He will be joined by former Neighbours' singer Trudi Green, Brill Garar (bass), Paul Hewitt (drums), and the Topp Twins. As well as good ole country music the show will feature costume and comedy. It begins May 18 in Tokoroa ... new Mockers' keyboardist is Tim Wedde, formerly of the False Gods. He replaces Gordon Costello, who is now tinkling the ivories with the Blimeys ... Gerry Moran (ex Swerve) has taken Peter Towers' place as singer for Infectious.

The Car Crash Set have a five-track EP nearing completion and will make another rare live appearance at Zanzibar, April 18 ... The Kiwi Animal album *Music Media* is at long last completed and ready for cutting and pressing ... Ian Morris (of Dudes, Dickheads and DD Smash fame) is moving to Wellington to work for Marmalade Studios, producing and engineering NZ bands. He is keen to hear tapes of good songs and good singers. He can be reached c/- Marmalade, PO Box 27-266, Wellington.

Perfect Strangers recorded track for a single at Azimuth Studios recently. Lineup is: Clive Sheridan (guitar), Warren Richardson (drums, vocals), Dianne Swann (lead vocals, guitar, keyboards), David Manning (bass guitar and vocals), Bruce Sheridan (guitar, keyboards, vocals) ... AK punkzine *Anarchy*, Outrage and Serious Intent has made available at cost price trapes by English bands the Apostles and Corpse and a compilation called Daily

Dose of Misery (see *Tapes Only* for details). The third issue of the magazine is out now and can be obtained from PO Box 25-004, St Heliers, Auckland, for 30 cents and SAE ... those of other cassette maestros, TV Eye, have broken silence with *The Brainshake*, which features one side each of Say Yes to Apes and the Impeccable Nasals. Coming up are *Beetroot Orbit* by Legacy of Ears and the compilation *I Just Flew In From Invercargill and Boy Are My Arms Tired!* (features SYTA, Avacadoes, Netherworld Dance Exponents, Blank Sabbath, etc). The label's second actual vinyl release, Hyphen-Smythe's *Badass* (say it "Bard Arse") should be on the streets soon. Following that will be a SYTA EP *Knife* and a Hyphen-Smythe single 'Man/Monkey'. All tapes are \$6 from 506 Queens Drive, Invercargill.

Maryan Allen has left for England but Ray Castle will take over the running of the Soul Bar and will introduce visual art as part of his "environs" concept. Russell Brown.

Dunedin

A new live venue has appeared called The Lair — it's situated in the Robbie Burns Hotel. The Blind Venetians have been playing there twice a week.

Student Radio One 91 FM has been well received and is due to go back on air on April 9 ... on May 1 there's to be a Glitter Party at the Cook featuring Look Blue Go Purple, Double Happies and possibly the Rip ... bassist Richard Ram has left Love In A Gas Oven consequently they are looking for a new bassist.

The Idles (nee Pretty Idles) are to undertake a national tour later this year. The Jetsons have a tape out soon and the Verlaines are going up to Auckland in Easter to record an EP and in May they hope to do a national tour.

George Kay

Wellington

From April 1 the second national festival of new and experimental music took place in Wellington. About 80 musicians from throughout NZ presented a week's interesting and provocative music at Thistle Hall in Cuba St.

TOM has just celebrated its first birthday and is continuing to provide an essential fortnightly service to local music fans ... Two Armed Men are currently recording at Auckland's Harlequin ... Body Electric have entered the studio to re-record 'Zanzibar' without the "heavy metal guitar" so the song can be released in England. Ian Morris is producing ... Blue Rock have recorded a cassette at RNZ and are searching for a company to record them.

Jayrem tycoon Jim Moss is off to Australia to increase sales of NZ music there. As he says, "You can't make money selling the records in New Zealand." ... Flesh D-Vice are recording for Jayrem and have a South Island tour lined up ... Circus Block 4 are still working on material for a forthcoming EP ... Vanguard's have recorded tracks for an EP of studio and live material ... sales talk: Naked Spots Dance album *Falling* and *Banana Dominion* are selling well ... Dunedin's Idles are set to fly to Wellington to film a video for RWP.

Artattack is opening in Mt Victoria. There is a performance area as well as room for exhibitions and good food on sale.

David Taylor

(DURAN DURAN IN THEIR OWN WORDS)

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