

New Progressions

A number of interesting projects have been set in motion by the merger of two of Auckland's eight-track studios, Progressive and Basement.

Steve Garden, who formerly operated Basement underneath his house, has become Progressive's number one engineer. The two studios will pool their gear and sell off that which is unnecessary. The proceeds will go towards sixteen-track recording gear, which will hopefully be installed in September.

Progressive boss Terry King has also formed Progressive Promotions with Eion Brown. The new agency intends to work closely with bands, helping them organise themselves and offering advice, information and publicity experience. King says things will be run on an "amicable and personal" basis but bands will be

expected to also be responsible, professional and willing to put in some work. Bands interested should contact PO Box 4187 Auckland or ph 795-344. RB

Making Your Own RWP

A TV, video recorder, synthesiser and guitar amplifier are among the prizes on offer in a music video competition for secondary schools.

The idea is for each group of pupils to come up with both the music and images (both must be completely original) for a video. Filming may be done in either film or video but must be submitted in video form. Entries close on July 27 and entry forms are still available from The Organisers, Music Video Contest, PO Box 1183, Wellington. The competition is a co-operative effort between the Recording Industry Association and the Department of Education.

Results will be announced on *Shazam* from Tuesday 14 onwards. As well as the larger prizes, there are video and audio cassettes to be won. And will the winning efforts be shown on TV? Unfortunately, no — the kind of video gear owned by most schools is simply not compatible with TV broadcasting. RB

Rock FM

Twelve months ago the launching of Auckland's second FM radio station, 89FM, was greeted with guarded excitement by most record listeners. The station itself reeked of confidence — a new start, the music coming first.

Today Programme Director Fred Botica looks wry: "We're a year behind schedule."

Some first annual report. But the fact remains that after reaching a high of just under 10 per cent in Auckland's crowded radio market, 89FM has slipped back to 6 per cent, at the bottom of the commer-

cial rankings. But things are changing:

"We've adjusted the rotation of music for a start. We now probably have the slowest turnover of playlist of any station in the country. And we've widened that playlist too — taken in a lot more different kinds of music. I like to think that people are not narrow-minded when it comes to music. If it's good — be it black music, rock music or whatever — they'll tolerate it. Not just tolerate it but *enjoy* it."

"And now, apart from the playlist, the jocks are doing their own music."

And New Zealand music? Botica says they're "hungry" for local stuff but it has to come up to scratch. The observation has been made that the station is now playing less NZ music but a far greater variety of it.

The next year will probably be crucial to 89's future. Botica says he is looking to make 10 per cent of the market in six months' time. It's confidence in the station's long-

term future that keeps them all going, he says.

Soul Vinyl

After releasing the best local breakdance LP so far the oft-maligned K-Tel Records has delved further back into black music to come up with a very healthy soul compilation.

Essential Soul contains Wilson Pickett's 'In the Midnight Hour', James Brown 'I Feel Good', Sam and Dave 'Hold On, I'm Coming', Martha Reeves 'Dancing in the Street', Ray Charles 'What'd I Say', Sam Cooke 'You Send Me', Carla Thomas 'B.A.B.Y.', Percy Sledge 'Warm and Tender Love', Aretha Franklin 'Respect', Otis Redding 'Dock of the Bay', Rufus Thomas 'Walkin' the Dog', Ben E. King 'Stand By Me', Solomon Burke 'Everybody Needs Somebody to Love', Gladys Knight and the Pips 'Midnight Train to Georgia', Isley Brothers 'That Lady' and Eddie Floyd 'I've Never Found A Girl'. RB



Alexei Sayle
'Uilo John! Gotta New Motor? (Island)

Two years ago we used to play this at A Certain Bar. The version we had was nearly all four letter words and I don't mean John. An oldie re-released, it raced up the UK charts and should do the same here now we've all seen the video. Pinta light an' bitter thanks John, know what I mean, luuvly.

Steve Levine
Believin' It All (Chrysalis)

Steve Levine is Culture Club's producer. This is his debut single, penned by himself with help from Julian Lindsay and a Boy called George. Ex Jags member John Adler takes lead vocals while Rita Marley sings the backing. Mikey Craig contributes bass. The end result is a rather limp reggae song. Boring.

Helen Terry
Love Lies Lost (Virgin)

My, the Boy has been busy. Here he is again, helping out on songwriting duties with CC's larger than life vocalist Miss Terry. This could quite easily be a reject from *Colour By Numbers*, which makes it at least five times better than Steve Levine's effort. File under forced soul.

Hot Streak
Body Work (Powderworks)

Yet another Jellybean Benitez job. Slightly repetitive but nonetheless in the groove. Some slick drum machine programming keeps it tight, while the chanting of 'Work Your Body' will never fail on the health-conscious dance-floor.

Rock Steady Crew
Uprock (Charisma)

Nothing new here. If you wait a while you'll probably be able to pick it up on *Break Dancing Hits and Misses Volume 479*. Strictly for those who like bouncing their faces off the floor.

Mark Phillips

Musical Sounds

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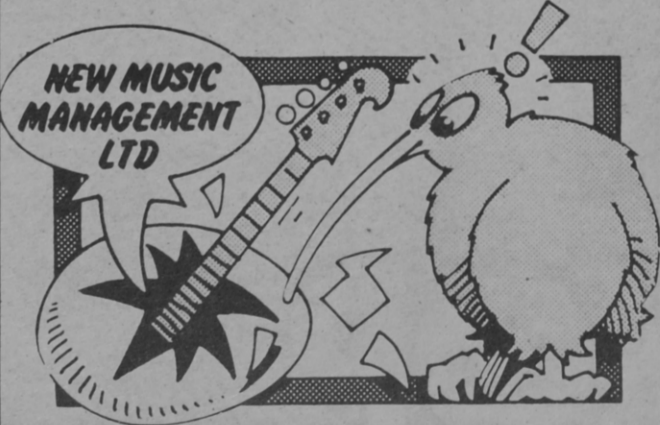
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