

'TAPES' FROM PAGE 26
to know about the Worst but never knew to ask. The Worst were apparently the first musical unit in this Portobello Tapes thing and, true to Portobello standards, the packaging is great. Not only do you get a book with the band's history and lots of snapshots but there's even a comb and piece of paper provided so you can hum along with your favorite songs. Not all the 35 "songs" are easy to listen to but some are neat and it's interesting to hear the band's evolution and the divergence that broke it up. The best tracks are the ones where senses of humour are unleashed, I think, so some of the later stuff gets on top of me a little. Buy yourself a band today!

The Kites RB
Umbilical Chords
(23 Carnavorn St, Dunedin, \$5)
It's funny to think that there are people you never hear of, working away at music, and creating damn good music in their lounges and bedrooms. I mean, have you heard of Harold S. Bernhardt and Anthony W. Takens? They actually turned up as the Forced Cup on *Ima Cassette Thing* last year and this is similar stuff — understated, mostly acoustic songs with hints of Syd Barrett (still) and Leonard Cohen. Lots of songs and a lyric sheet — the pair manage to tie melody and emotion with a sense of humour and things only get

wobbly occasionally, but they can be forgiven that. Wanna be the first on your block with a Kites tape? RB
The Normal Ambition
(Industrial, \$7)
All tracks here are recorded live, although the first three were done in Harlequin Studios. The studio songs are amazingly slick for two-track recordings but are outshone by the *real* live tracks. The Normal Ambition create strong melodies and there's some bloody good singing but I have reservations: this band could either sink into a derivative nightmare or become a VERY powerful live band. Standout tracks are 'Too White', 'The Same Mistake' and 'Bless My Soul'. Interesting stuff. FR
David Appleton
The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life (Rites, \$5)
David goes to Palmerston North, discovers omnipresent being which leaves him 'bummed to death' and puts this tape together in a weekend. What can I say except his transcription of the religious experience veers crazily from ridlime to sublimous. If ya know what I mean. Some of this stuff is really good, some ain't. You can't review stuff like this, just listen to it. CK
Rising From the Ashes
(Rites, \$5)

Rites has had some very good releases lately and this is no let-down. Four new NZ bands are featured: Five Year Mission, from Napier sparkle with tracks like 'UFO', roughly recorded but great nonetheless, while Auckland's K4 deliver the sprightly 'Brothers Of the Head' and three other stirring tracks. Side Two has the now defunct Corrective Training, who need an energy boost, their droning sound becomes a bit tiresome. Rex the Fish, however, have a wonderfully fresh feel with great guitar sound and female vocalist. A worthwhile compilation, introducing bands who deserve the exposure.
Vicious Circle
Foolish Ideas (Rites)
Cold Chisel, Men At Work, Angels — bastions of boredom we associate with Australian music. Sure, there was the Saints and the Birthday Party but they're long gone and knowledge of exciting new Oz bands is sadly lacking. So what's happening there, you ask? Melbourne's Vicious Circle are happening friend, the fastest rising punk band across the Tasman, delivering speedy doses of healthy anger, commonsense politics and commitment. Get this and there's a chance we'll see them here soon.
Neil Cartwright



Frankie Goes To Hollywood
Two Tribes (Annihilation) 12" (ZTT)
There seem to be so many mixes of this song that each time you hear it it sounds different. This is at least the third or fourth one that's graced these lugholes. It's just as well the lyrics are controversial 'cos you can't bloody dance to it. Frankie's cover of Edwin Starr's 'War' is the best thing they've done and that's also on here somewhere.
Yarborough and Peoples
Don't Waste Your Time 12" (Total Experience)
This is my favourite for this month, a great SOS Band-style groove epic. Fantastic lyrics all about girls stealing their friends' men. Another short 12", clocking in at only eight minutes, about three too many unfortunately.
Scritti Politti
Absolute 12" (Virgin)
What a pity Green looks like Bjorn Borg, because he makes good records. This one's standard Scritti Mk II disco, tasty enough but not quite as high in the hook status as 'Wood Beez'. I wonder what he's like at tennis?
SOS Band
Just the Way You Like 12" (Tabu)
More elongated extendable grooves. Juicy music in the same vein as 'Just Be Good To Me' but perhaps a mite less commercial. Big in discos and on ghetto blasters but maybe not on radios — and at nine minutes 40, well, marathons have been run in less than that!
The Smiths
What Difference Does It Make 12" (Rough Trade)
I don't go much on Morrissey's mob meself, but this little tune seems to spiral its way into the innermost regions of the memory cells quite nicely. Dazzling jangly noises pretend to be guitars and Morrissey moans his way through tired apologies that

the song isn't quite as good as he'd like to think it is.
This Mortal Coil
Sixteen Days — Gathering Dust 12" (4AD)
This Mortal Coil is comprised of various members of Modern English, the Cocteau Twins and an outfit called Cindytalk. It's therefore not surprising that they sound like Joy Division with female vocals. Ersatz atmosphere music.
Robert Gori
Darling Don't Leave Me 12" (Mute)
Robert was once half of German electronic duo D.A.F. For this latest single he has enlisted the help of Annie Lennox, a wise move. Thunderous electrohypnotic music not unlike the Eurhythmics in top form.
David Sylvian
Red Guitar 12" (Virgin)
Remember a couple of years back when Japan pioneered a new synthsound, they even made two good albums. These days Mr Sylvian is so far up his own bum that he seems to have missed the whole point. I remember the fashion, but don't have the clothes.
Alf Moyet
Love Resurrection 12" (CBS)
Having left Vince to get on with it, Alf has found new songwriting partners in British

disco hit makers Swain and Jolley. A pleasant, if not startling, song but then in these days of mediocrity what can one expect? Probably a Top 10 hit.
INXS
Burn For You 30.5cm (WEA)
Here's a naughty little number that comes to you courtesy of a great 'Funkytown' rip-off. This could well be the real big one in INXS' American campaign. Lively and nowhere near as painful as their last one. Expect to hear it on 1ZM for the next six months.
Twisted Sister
We're Not Going To Take It (Atlantic)
No, neither are we. This is so bad it doesn't deserve to even be considered. Mind you, on the B-Side is that heavy metal glam classic 'You Can't Stop Rock 'n' Roll', a song everyone should own, if only to annoy the neighbours.
Break Machine
Break Dance Party (RCA)
Rubbish, rubbish, rubbish.
The Catch
25 Years (Carrere)
I can honestly say I've never heard of this bunch. They sound British but I wouldn't put money on. Could have been a good commercial proposition if it wasn't for the plodding arrangement.
Mark Phillips



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