

'RUMOURS' FROM PAGE 2
 issue should be out soon and features articles on Axemen, TV Eye, Portobello, Rites, ROIR, etc. Interested? Write to 3/475 Onehunga Mall, Auckland 6 ... **Campus Radio** finished recently with what will hopefully be the station's last AM broadcast ... **Flesh D-Vice's** inaction cost them the opportunity to go on a USA compilation LP but **Five Year Mission** have landed a spot on a Norwegian cassette and **Armatrak** are on a USA tape ... Compos Mentis (Wgtn), Armatrak (Akld) and Boner (Nelson) are among the names on new Rites Tape *Rising From the Ashes Vol 2*, which will be sent to over 20 countries, courtesy the tireless Neil Cartwright.
 Hamilton's eccentric **Ha Ha Ha** mag assures everyone it's still alive and kicking. Or something ... **Radio Active** 89FM battled an objection from Radio NZ to extend to breakfast hours near the end of its transmission. Its success lay in convincing the Broadcasting Tribunal that it was continuing to provide a truly alternative radio service ... **Ether Relay** is now bringing in the following New York and London mags: *East Village Eye*, *Beat* (reggae, black music), *Details* (fashion, style, interviews), *ZG* (contemporary culture, art

theory), *Raw* (the high chapel of comics, ltd supply) and *ID* (fashion). Latest outlet is Auckland's Corner Bookshop.
Russell Brown
South
 That funny little L-shaped bar called the **Star and Garter** will now open irregularly due to lack of support from the fickle ChCh punter who was no doubt confused by the variety of acts offered up there. Only major acts booked for next month are **Freudian Slips**, **Wayward Witches** and **Sam Hunt**.
 If you live out of ChCh your gas bills could mount up, with tours lined up featuring **Mockers**, **ND Toys**, **Fetus Productions**, **Martial Law**, **Peking Man**, **Beat Souldiers**, **the Rip**, **Doublehappys** ... and that's not even getting into the big overseas acts more or less likely to grace these shores; see calendar page for more hot rumours ... and after Peter Cooke's desolate interview in the *Star* there is doubt that the **Wastrels** have really broken up just yet. Bookings have been made for December, singer Anton Jenner doesn't go overseas until March and there are recording possibilities in the city Cooke described as "full of bland, uninspiring pop music," Auckland.
 Summer's underway and the

Band Rotunda has already seen the **Great Unwashed**, the **Axemen** and the **Connoisseurs**, but they didn't draw quite the 6-7000 that the Legionnaires gig there did. Resident band from the Marine, **Louie and the Hotsticks**, also did well. Lots more gigs planned ... with **Segovia** in Auckland the rest of the Connoisseurs have formed a loose ensemble with the Axemen and entertain Friday night shoppers in the City Mall, outside Ballantynes, any donations gratefully accepted ... and the Axemen's fifth cassette, *A Scar Is Born*. It's 2xC60, has 30 songs and four different covers and can be got from PO Box 2764 ChCh for a trifling 10 bucks ... the cassette scene in Dunedin is also very healthy and among recent releases is one from **Pink Plastic Gods**.
 On the recording front **Scorched Earth Policy** are still working with Eric Johns at Tandem ... and over at **Nightshift** Arnie Van Bussell has a brand spankin' new 16-track recorder. Arnie has put more than his neck on the line over this one so hopefully local bands will support him by using the thing ... already recorded at Nightshift are **Wayward Witches**, who's four song cassette is out, **Unwanted Aliens** from Blenheim,

Naughty Thoughts from Timaru, the **Untouchables** and **Legless Brownies**, who are also planning a cassette. **Maiden China** also hope to release an EP from their work there ... the fourth **Krypton** cassette is out from Onset-Offset and the **Haemogoblins** LP is nearing completion.
 After another spell, **Roco Coca** have another new lineup, some more new material, want to record and have plans for a summer tour ... Timaru band the **Punch** plan to add a brass section for two special performances in early Dec. One will be at the Caroline Bay soundshell ... **Lions and Tigers** are looking for a permanent drummer as Stephen Birss is already involved in two other projects ... Maiden China continue their search for a guitarist; ph 791-394 if you can play more than three chords.
 Latest fave around town (and with good reason) are **Tan Zen Jungle**, who will perform in ChCh only a few more times before going to Auckland. Guitarist William Stewart (currently on loan from the Haemogoblins) will probably not travel with them and instead they are planning to add another trumpet player. They also want to incorporate films, slides and tapes into their performances in future.
Alister Cain

Car Crash Set: Trevor Reekie, Nigel Russell.



PHOTO BY RICHARD LUDLUM

We Are Driven

Car Crash Set make their first LP and walk away without a scratch

Nigel Russell admits he doesn't have a clue about what kind of people buy Car Crash Set records.

"I mean, we hardly ever see them," the singer smiles and shrugs. With their debut album **No Accident** out on the streets any day now **Car Crash Set** have played a grand total of six times this year, mainly at clubs not noted for their capacity to squeeze in hundreds of potential consumers.

In fact launching an album with that kind of backup in this country might seem foolhardy were it not for the fact that **Car Crash Set** have managed to sell respectable quantities of their first two singles already.

"Here you're expected to play live, do it all first, before people can say 'I like that song' and go out and buy the record," he says. "I think we've been pretty successful in getting away from that. After all, people will go out and buy a Rolling Stones record or one by the flavour of the month English band when their chances of ever seeing either live are pretty slim."

Car Crash Set songs come from a nucleus of Nigel, keyboardist Dave Bulog and guitarist Trevor Reekie — additional musicians are brought in for live performances or for recording. Would it be true to say that the band as a whole is still learning to play live?

"Yeah, that would be right. We haven't played very much but we finally seem to have settled into a lineup now so it's going to be easier to rehearse. I think our last gig at the Windsor was the one where we really started to find our feet."

It's also been suggested that the band should put on more of a show live ...

"I don't know, if we were putting on a show it wouldn't be us. At the moment I see it as being fairly honest. We're not putting on airs and graces when we get on stage. I've had a lot of people say to me things like 'why don't you get Dave to jump around a bit more?' — well that's just not Dave. It's the way it is and I don't think a "show" as such is necessary. I think we'll probably loosen up on stage the more we do."

No Accident utilised the talents of Trevor's workmate Sharon Tuapawa on vocals, Ryan Monga on bass and Roddy Carlson and Henri Downes (who hit things with the *Machinations* for a while) on percussion. But Simon Mark-Brown has now firmly settled into the live lineup as percussionist and Pat Roxborough (who was called in at the 11th hour before the Windsor gig) may replace Ryan, who is committed to his own professional band, *Ardijah*.

Songs basically come from the three core members, who will come up with ideas individually at home and knock them into shape as a threesome and it was through some fiddling about with potential rhythm tracks for a single that **No Accident** was born:

Nigel: "We had to use the 16-track studio at Mandrill because the 24-track was busy and by the time the 24-track became free we had the basic skeletons of six songs worked out and decided we might as well go ahead with an album."

The album, recorded between March and August (with a late addition, 'Heart Of Stone', recorded at Echo Park Studios), presented an obvious opportunity to stretch out technically.

"I think we found out a lot more about the gear and about getting something from our heads into a usable sound. It was just a matter of the different ways we could connect things up and use pieces of equipment," Nigel explains.

They're happy with the production of the album — which isn't to say they wouldn't change anything given the chance to rework it: "I couldn't put my finger on any one thing for the whole album but just things song by song. There are ideas we tried which I don't think quite worked — which doesn't necessarily mean anyone else is going to notice it."

With 'Breakdown' (the single) the oldest song on the record apart from last year's 'Imagination' B-side 'Those Days', Dave describes the album as marking a period of transition for the band.

"I think the album is part of a change for the band, it's sort of a move across to what the band will be like in the future, sort of half old and half new," he explains.

"On several tracks we've mixed the synthesisers back. They're still there but we're not a synthesiser band any more."

"I don't think we ever were — that was just a convenient term," adds Nigel.

"So we want to dispel the tag totally," Dave continues. "We're as much a 'synthesiser band' as, say, Hunters and Collectors — they were using a Fairlight two years ago. That was the ultimate in synthesiser technology and no one classed them as a synthesiser band. The songs are just songs."

Nigel: "The songs would work regardless of what they were played on and I think that's always the bottom line, the songs. It doesn't matter so much how they're played, what they're played on or even how they're recorded."

As if to prove the point, guitar dominates their most recent recording, 'East and West', which took a mere five hours to put down at Echo Park. Nigel describes it as one of three or four songs in the set that can "go either way, fail or succeed live because they're open to spontaneity. We still haven't really made 'East and West' work live."

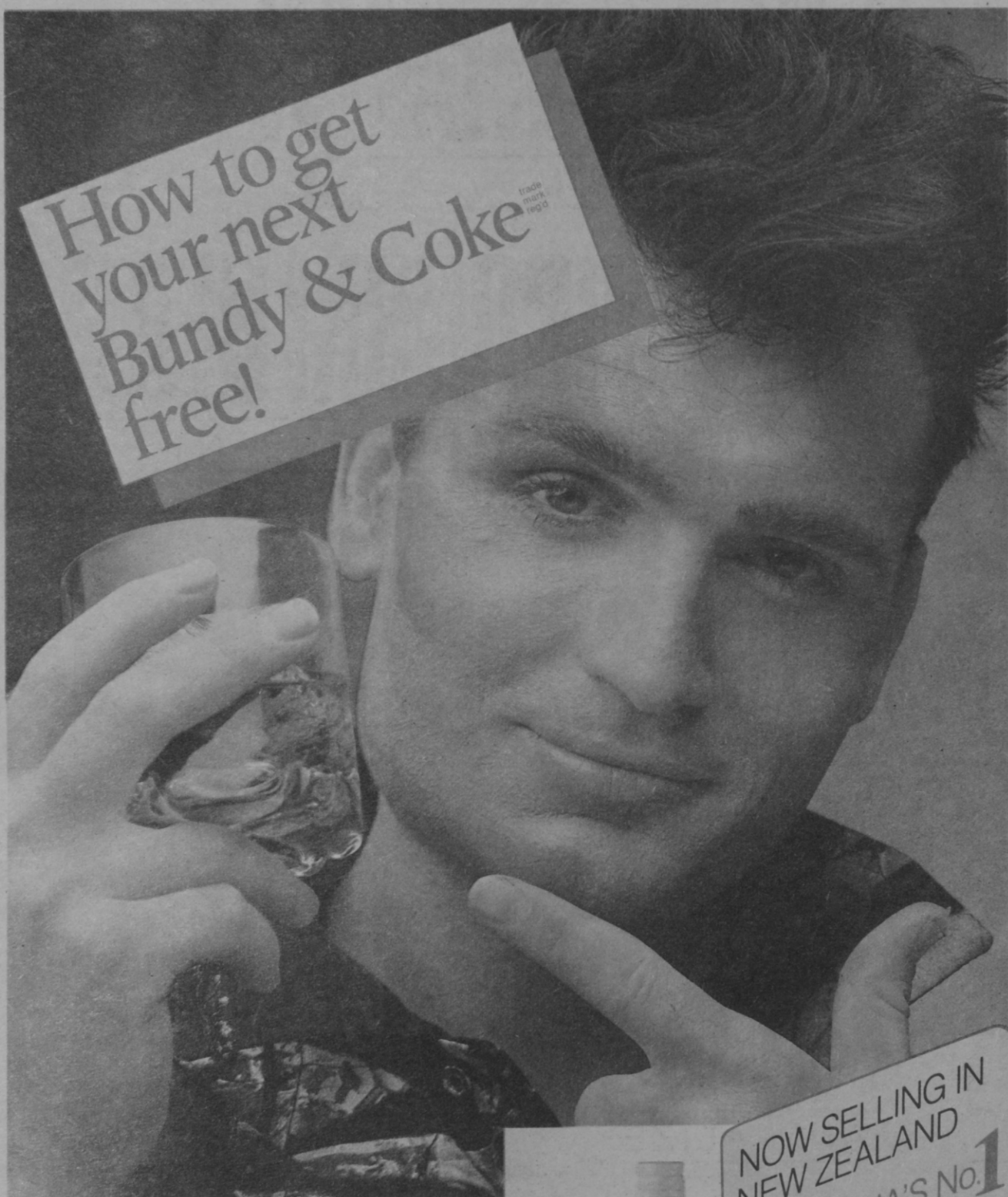
'East and West' won't be out until next year and between now and then **Car Crash Set** would like to play live a little more, perhaps out of town. A major problem is that it's hard to make sufficient money to reimburse professionals like Pat.

Like every synthesiser owner both Dave and Nigel have their eyes on new and better gear. Nigel has sold all his and will be looking at possibilities while he's overseas on holiday and Dave has his eyes on a digital machine that will not only play real sampled sounds but has the capability to play itself what he plays now, leaving him free to play, say, a guitar.

They're also looking at overseas support and a tape of 'East and West' has been despatched to New Order's Bernie Albrecht for comments and perhaps an offer to mix it.

And musically? Dave: "Rhythmically, we want to become a lot freer, because I find that a lot of the English stuff is very tight but I think Australasian rhythms are a lot looser and that's what I'm interested in working towards. And I'd also like to write songs with a certain emotional quality — something that people can get something out of."

Russell Brown



This is the scene.
You're down at the local, checking out a couple of bands and having a few drinks with a few friends.
Now you know how the conversation always goes ... albums, videos, groups, that sort of thing. Casually you ask someone, "What's your favourite group?" It's a sure thing that they'll ask you, "What's yours?"
That's your cue!
"I'll have a Bundy rum and Coke, thanks!"
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