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The Pride of Portugal

# MATEUS ROSÉ

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#### **Readers' Poll Results!**

#### Group Of 1984

- Frankie Goes To Hollywood
- 3. Dance Exponents
  4. R.E.M.
- 5. Mockers

#### **Album**

- 1. THE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE, U2 Born in the USA, Bruce Springsteen
- 3. Reckoning, R.E.M. 4. Welcome to the Pleasure Dome,
- 5. Rebel Yell, Billy Idol 6. Ocean Rain, Echo & the
- Bunnymen Prayers Be Answered, Dance
- Exponents

#### Single

- 1. 'PRIDE (IN THE NAME OF LOVE);
- 'Relax' FGTH
- 'Forever Tuesday Morning', the
- 4. 'Pink Frost', the Chills
- 'Song to the Siren', This Mortal
- 6. 'Smalltown Boy', Bronski Beat

- 1. 'PRIDE (IN THE NAME OF LOVE);

- Wild Boys', Duran Duran
  Slugbucket Hairybreathmoner, Tall Dwarfs
  'Pink Frost', the Chills
- 5. 'Sex & Agriculture', Dance Exponents
- 'Sensoria', Cabaret Voltaire 'Song to the Siren', This Mortal

#### **Vocalist**

- 1. BONO VOX (U2)
  2. Alison Moyet
  3. Bruce Springsteen
  4. Holly Johnson (FGTH)
- 6. Jimi Somerville (Bronski Beat)

#### **New Artist**

- ALISON MOYET
- Frankie Goes To Hollywood Nik Kershaw
- Cyndi Lauper The Smiths
- 6. Sade 7. Billy Bragg

#### **NZ Album**

1. PRAYERS BE ANSWERED, DANCE EXPONENTS

- Swear It's True, the Mockers Send You, Sneaky Feelings No Accident, Car Crash Set
- Caught in the Act, the Mockers Great Divide, the Narcs
- 8. Split Seconds, Bill Direen 9. Long Ago, Herbs 10. Some Bloodstained Morning,

- 'PINK FROST', THE CHILLS & Agriculture', Dance Exponents
- Forever Tuesday Morning, the Mockers
- B-Side, the Double
- Doublehappys 5. 'The Real You', Netherworld
- Dancing Toys 6. 'Chapter One', National Anthem
- 7. 'I Walk Away', Split Enz 8. 'Heart and Soul', the Narcs

#### Concert

- Split Enz ('Enz With A Bang') The Mockers
- Dance Exponents
- The Cure
- 6. 'Thank God It's Over' (Aotea Sq)

- **NZ Group** 1. THE CHILLS
- Split Enz The Mockers
- 4. Dance Exponents
- 6. DD Smash
- Sneaky Feelings

#### **NZ Vocalist**

ANDREW FAGAN (Mockers)

- Jordan Luck (Dance Exponents) Dave Dobbyn (DD Smash)

- 5. Martin Phillipps (Chills)
  6. Chris Knox (Tall Dwarfs)
  7. The Topp Twins

#### **New NZ Artist**

- . KATANGO . Chills
- 3. Circus Block 4 4. IQU
- 5. Car Crash Set 6. National Anthem
- 7. Marginal Era

- DAVID GENT (Dance Exponents)
   Geoff Hayden (Mockers)
   Terry Moore (Chills)

#### Hello (Again)!

4. Nigel Griggs (Split Enz)

STEVE THORPE (Mockers) Peter Warren (DD Smash)

Mike Harrilambi (Dance

Steve Clarkson (Narcs)
Stuart Page (Builders, Axemen)
Lesley Paris (Look Blue Go

CHRIS SHEEHAN (Dance

Graeme Downes (Verlaines) Neil Finn (Split Enz) Brett Adams (Mockers)

Brian Jones (Dance Exponents)

5. Jane Dodd (Verlaines)6. Paul Kean (Bats)

Purple) 7. Fred Faleauto (Herbs)

6. Dave Dobbyn
7. Andy Dickson (Narcs)

TIM WEDDE (Mockers)

Eddie Rayner (Split Enz) Peter Allison (Chills)

4. Nigel Russell (Car Crash Set) 5. Paul Hewson (Dragon)

NZ Keyboards

6. Liam Ryan (Narcs)

Twit Of The Year!

1. ANDREW FAGAN 2. Phillip Schofield

Simon Le Bon

4. Ronald Reagan

7. Dave Dobbyn 8. George Michael

Zine Scene

You may have seen the first

issue of new Dunedin 'zine Garage lying around on the counter of your local record shop

over the past few months — but then again you may not. Well the

second issue is just out and features (along with such technical quantum leaps as the introduction of Letraset) stuff on

the Orange, the Puddle, Sneaky Feelings, the Rip, Radio One, other fanzines and a welter of

Garage is the baby of repatriated Dunedinite Richard

Langston, who returned from

news and reviews

Boy George

**NZ Drummer** 

Exponents)

**NZ Guitarist** 

Exponents)

There are those who would say it had to happen ... Hello S have gotten back together.

The reformation stems from what was to be a one-off get-together to farewell the old Gluepot in February. The gig pro-ved so enjoyable that, according to guitarist Harry Lyon, doing it again was virtually inevitable. "Nobody needed persuading

'Nobody needed persuading it was like telepathy," he says. So the final Hello Sailor lineup -Lyon, Graeme Brazier, Dave

McArtney, Lisle Kinney and Ricky Ball — is back together for a two week tour of the North Island, kicking off at Auckland's Windsor Park on April 29 (see Coruba Calendar for further dates). The five have achieved

something like a reformation at various times in the five years since Sailor dissolved, most notably with one Legionnaires lineup, and Lyon agrees there's a special chemistry between the members: "Like five fingers on a

It's appropriate that Sailor are doing a pub tour, seeing as they

#### A Repeat Prescription

Remember hiding behind the couch and peeking at the telly? Remember the Web of Fear? The Cybermen? The Daleks? It's coming back — TVNZ is bringing some classic old *Dr Who* episodes forward in time from the 1960s to Fridays at 6.30pm on

The repeats pick up in 1968 with the second Doctor, Patrick Troughton. Troughton took over the role in 1966 from William Hartnell, who misses out on the repeat treatment (presumably because his Doctor wasn't always a nice guy). Troughton was succeeded in 1969 by John Pertwee, who saw the series mature and establish itself. But it was Tom Baker, who became the Doctor in 1974, who extracted the pact. 1974, who attracted the most viewers. When Baker left seven years later, Peter Davidson went from practising as a vet (in *All Creatures Great and Small*) to be

England last year and decided to apply some of the things he'd

his own, back home. True to the genre it's rough, spirited and en-

thusiastic. It quite clearly fulfills the basic function of fanzines, to

give a grassroots coverage of the music that surrounds the writer(s), in a way that "major" (!) publications such as this one

have neither the space nor the resources to do. As a very per-

sonal endeavour, it's probably a lot of fun and a lot of work.

The new Garage (and also No.1, which features the Verlaines, Chills and Tall Dwarfs) is available for \$1.50 from 21 Royal Crescent.

een in English fanzines to one of

the Doctor. He lasted only two seasons. The sixth Doctor, Colin Baker, found himself shunted into hyperspace recently when the BBC put the show into "time-lock phase" for 18 months.

But the lay-up has already been shortened to 10 months after protests in Britain

#### Kiwi Style



The Kiwi Animal have recorded their new album, *Mercy*, in an Auckland church. As well as instruments, it bears an electronic track which make use of computer-devised word permutations and also musical backing for a William Burroughs monologue (which Burroughs gave them permission to use). It will be released at the end of April on their out Massacra label, and their own Massage label and contains 10 tracks. Pictured here recording are (L-R) Patrick Waller, Brent Hayward and Julia Cooper.

Music Videos

A bonanza of music video hits this month, courtesy of CEL

virtually invented the local pub

circuit with the Rum and Coke tour in 1977.

"But this band is not getting back together to play the pub cir-

cuit," Lyon emphasises. "We'll see what happens after this tour.

We're not doing it for financial

reasons — when we play it'll be because we want to, not because

we need the money."

They're hoping to have as many as half a dozen new songs together for the tour and will pro-

bably record a single afterwards (at Harlequin, natch, seeing as

Lyon's the studio manager) and, if that goes well, possibly an album.

that goes wen, possibly an album. But that's all speculation at the moment. The thing that the guitarist really wants to emphasise is this: "We're doing a lot of practising for this. We're making an effort to make it really read."

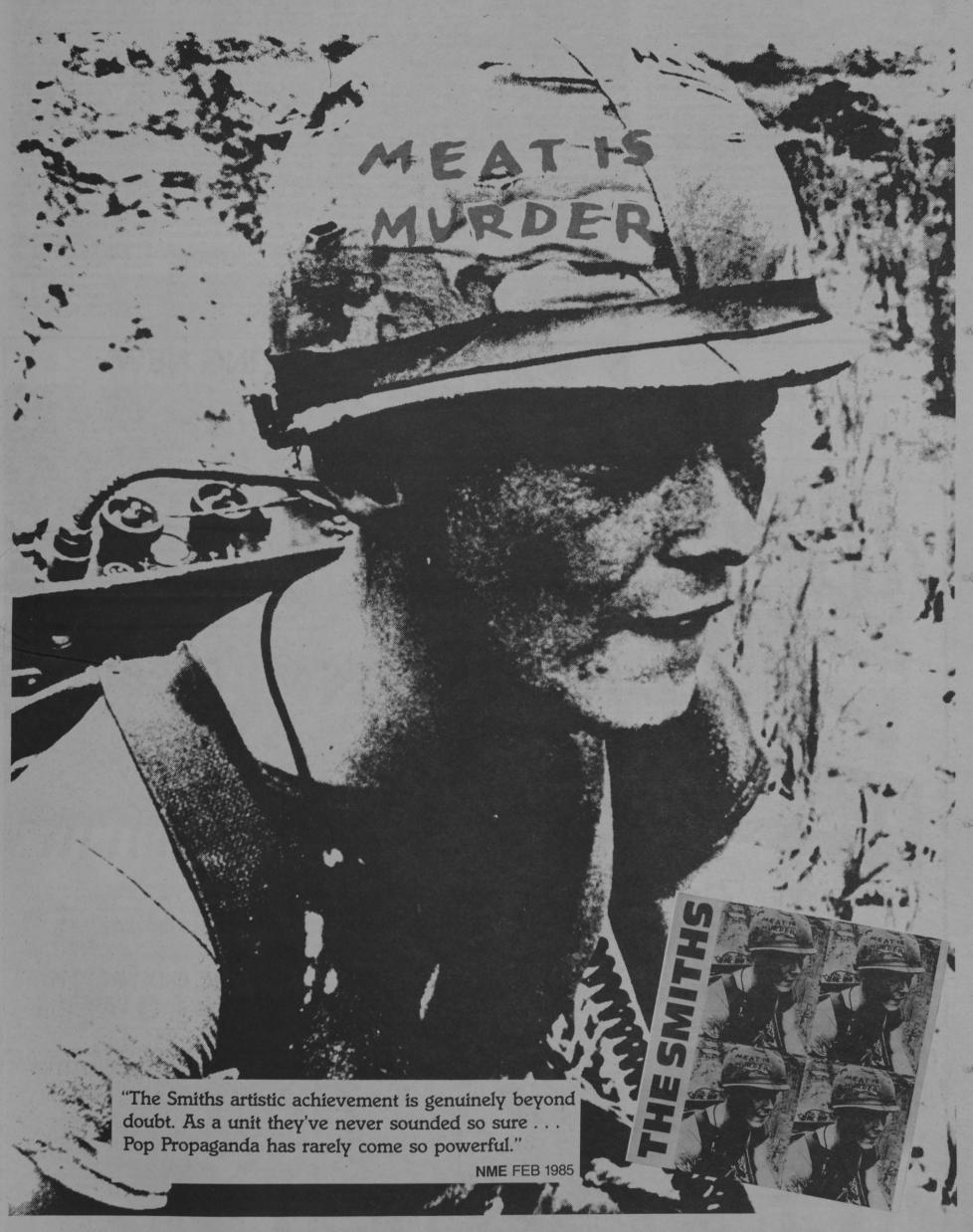
CEL have 13 releases this month and intend to release six music videos every month from now on. This month's package is as follows: live tapes from the Jam, Big Country, Roxy Music (*The High Road*), Tina Turner, Dire Straits, Black Sabbath and Rainbow; Dragon The Video Singles, ABC Man Trap, Elton John The Video Singles; and Best Of the Party Tapes Vols 1 & 2 (each containing 23 assorted videos).

In the movie line, Palace Video offers Robert Altman's Streamers, Charles Chaplin's Limelight (made in 1952, this film had to be withdrawn as Chaplin copped the brunt of the anticommie paranoia of the time), the charming sci-fi pic Android (starring Klaus Kinski!), a couple of gentle comedies in Once In Paris (with Wayne Rogers) and Misunderstood (with Gene Hackman getting all domestic), as well as Splatter University (which pretty much explains

CBS/Fox have Robert Redford in *The Natural*, Richard Chamberlain and Rod Steiger as Cook and Peary in the story of the race for the North Pole and Windwalker, the story of an old Cheyenne chief (played by Trevor Howard) looking back on his life.



# THESMITHS





NEW ALBUM MEAT IS MURDER ALSO AVAILABLE ON ALBUM AND TAPE HATFUL OF HOLLOW



UK & USA
All Stevie Wonder records have been banned on government TV and radio by the South African Broadcasting Corporation following Wonder's dedication of lowing Wonder's dedication of his recently-won Oscar to Nelson Mandela. The dedication came on the heels of Wonder's arrest at anti-apartheid demonstrations in New York ... the ZTT book about Frankie, And Then There Came A Bang has, rather predictably, Bang has, rather predicted, been banned by its distributors, because of what they considered indecent content. Next book indecent content. Next book planned is the Art Of Noise tome, Daft As A ... Latest ZTT artist is torch singer Anne Pigalle, with single 'He Stranger' ... latest Bowie film role is a cameo as a hired killer in new John Landis film to the Might His role film Into the Night. His role features a knife fight with yer actual Carl Perkins. Meanwhile, the Actor is threatening another world tour in 1986 ... the Rolling Stones plan to begin another tour

later this year, after the release of their new LP, currently being recorded in Paris, in August ... footage of the Velvet Underground has been conveniently unearthed in New York to go with the likewise unearthed lost Velvets tapes which make up the new V.U. LP. The film is to be shown on Brit TV ... the new shown on Brit TV ... the new lineup for Nick Kent's Subterraneans, which includes our own former Miltowns, Kelly and Syd recently supported the Smiths at the Hammersmith Odeon ... and just who is this **Bryn** in the new **Damned** lineup? The Captainless Damned have a new single, 'Grimly Fiendish' ... dub crazy **Lee Perry** has again (with his new single 'Judgement In A Babylon') accused Island Records boss Chris Blackwell of witchcraft and of causing the death of **Bob Marley** through evil practises. Blackwell's not saying anything ... Squeeze have reformed with their original lineup, apart from new bassist Keith Wilkinson. First single is 'The Last Time Forever' ... Black Uhuru will carry on despite the loss of frontan Michael Rose to a solo carrerr His replacement will a solo career. His replacement will be Junior Reid ... BRAFA (British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal) is the latest musical endeavour in aid of Ethiopia. More than 200 musicians and singers, including Mikey Dread, Dennis Brown, Aswad, etc, got together one day in February to record 'Let's Make Africa Green Again' ... the new

Graham Parker band is the Shot and it includes the venerable **Brinsley Schwartz** on lead guitar ... **Brix Smith**, wife of fun-loving

Mark E has recorded her first solo single. It's a version of an old Strawberry Alarm Clock number, Incense and Peppermints ... will the **New York Dolls** reform for a few gigs? ... Stewart Copeland continues to strenuously deny reports that the Police have split for good. Meanwhile, he's com-pleted his own film, *The Rhythmatist* and the first single is 'Koteja', a reworking of an old Zaire folk song ... Pete Best, the man who was nearly a Beatle, at last tells his own story in his new book, Beatle! The Pete Best Story ... so-called "writer" Tony Parsons has landed a deal for several books with Virgin Books ... Bob Geldof has his second film role (his first was as Pink in The Wall) in The Hustler, the tale of a snooker hustler ... Robert 'Bumps' Blackwell, who got Lit-tle Richard's hit career off the ground as a producer and later worked with such as Sam Cooke and Quincy Jones at seminal stages of their careers, died recently ... and, after 16 years, **Dr** Hook are planning to split.

Albums: Dire Straits Brother In

Arms, Luther Vandross The Night I Fell In Love, Chaz Jankel Looking At You, Yello Stella, Gary Numan White Noise, Frank Zappa Thing Fish, Gary Glitter Boys Will Be Boys, Jonzun Crew Down To

Earth, Marc Riley and the Creepers Fancy Meeting God. New Style Council LP due in June.

Singles: Simple Minds 'Don't You (Forget About Me)' (from Breakfast Club film soundtrack), Bronski Beat and Marc Almond 'I Bronski Beat and Marc Almond 1 Feel Love' (completely new ver-sion), ABC 'Be Near Me', Jesus and Mary Chain 'Never Unders-tand' (now on Blanco Y Negro label), JoBoxers 'Is This Really The First Time', Cocteau Twins 'Aikea-Guinea' (EP), Billy Bragg 'Between the Wars' (EP).

#### Christchurch

In a sharp turn around of events, drummer Stevie Birss has left the Dance Exponents after only two live appearances The Exponents curently plan to use session drummers for touring and recording, rather than adding another member ... meanwhile, Birss has wasted no time in forming a new band with fellow ex-White Boy Kevin Stokes (guitar) and Wee Rob Failsafe (bass and guitar). They will debut soon ... and long time stalwart of the local music scene, Mark Brooks, (Vauxhalls, Newtones and latterly the White Boys) has also put together a new project which is apparently "heavier than the White Boys". Joining Brooks are Brent (from Street of Flowers and the Vibes) on drums and Jamie from the Venetians on guitar.

Members of the **AEB** were over the moon when some 400 peo-

ple turned up to see Horizin and No Idea at a Dole Day Rage at the Gladstone. because of your support they have many more similar gigs planned ... the debut LP from **Southern Front** is on the racks in your favourite rekid shop now! Southern Front recently pulled off a minor coup in having one of the tracks, 'Southern Comfort' chosen as the theme music for Viewfinder. LP can be got for a mere \$8.50 from Failsafe, Box 3003 ChCh ... the Flying Nun compilation is now not called *Bison*, but *Tuatara*, which seems to make more sense ... Westport has a new music venue put together by the Buller Unemployment Collective. The Chills ... and speaking of the land's favourite band, the Chills played to packed houses in ChCh over Easter. But the real suprise came from Sneaky Feelings who must now be a force to be reckoned with, both nationally and internationally ... the next Sneakies single will be 'Husband House,' which they recorded recently in Auckland. They will tour to promote it in two or three months.

Recent visitors to Dunedin have been Now We Are Six and the **Punch**, who supported the **Wastrels** . The Punch have Wastrels . The Punch have various Exponents tour support slots and plan some gigs at local high schools. Will gangly Geoff Hopkins become a heart-throb? ... former bass and sax player for onetime groovers My Three Sons,

heavy-ish ensemble the Allies and the Skeptics, who were forced to cancel their Gladstone dates following a petty and mean-ingless disagreement with the local constabulary over words on one of their posters. Because of this we were forced to miss the future of rock 'n' roll. future of rock 'n' roll.

Maiden China have been recording at Auckland's Mandrill Studios and have some live work set up ... the Shazam concert in the ChCh Town Hall will feature mainly NI bands; Katango, Politicians and Grey Parade, with either the Chills or the Punch making up the lineup. It's on May 22. A RWP concert at the same venue is planned for Sept 11 ... the on-again-off-again career of the Back Door Blues Band would the Back Door Blues Band would

Deb Frame, has joined Wayward

recently at Lyttleton's low-key venue the British were promising

four-piece Vague Secrets ... also appearing there have been new

plan

found

Witches and they

a North Island tour

the Back Door Blues Band would appear to be on again, with new members joining original Ted Clarke and Aynsley Day. They have a South Is tour planned for May-June ... Louie and the Hotsticks, who have shown a lot of courage in moving from the Marine, have an LP planned, but we hear they need a lot of new material first.

New EP from the Bats is due out in a month or so ... also exout in a month or so ... also ex-CONTINUED ON PAGE 28







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MARCH/STEVIE WONDER

MAY/BILLY IDOL □ JUNE/ELVIS COSTELLO

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☐ AUG/MOCKERS
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☐ NOV/HERBS
☐ DEC/FRANKIE

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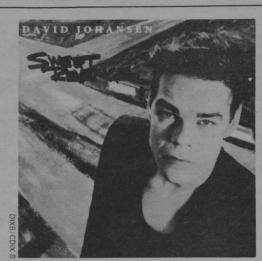
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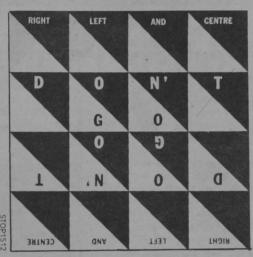
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#### etters

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#### All Things Considered ...

Due to *RIU*'s increasing clickyphobia and compulsory drug-induced formula, I've been hesitant in getting my copy of late. So after a three or four month break it was good to see you lads are getting out a bit. After five (or was it six?) days on the road with Hunters and Collectors, I can't think of another writer who could have done a better job of telling the world about it than Russell Brown. Entertaining, active and a pleasure to read. I'm looking forward to April.

Taranaki Sol Gisborne

Concerning the Russell Brown article 'Six Days On the Road' ... perhaps it should have been titled 'Six Days On the Road With Russell Brown' — by Russell Russell Brown' — by Russell Brown. What a load of pretentious bile! I thought I was going to read

SPRINGSTEEN

about Hunters and Collectors. Instead I got a story (and I use the term loosely) about Russell Brown's voodoo doll, Russell Brown's alcohol problem, Russell Brown's leather jacket and, above all, how Russell Brown felt. I, the "humble reader" don't want to know how sick you were, R Brown, but how good (or bad) that Hunters and Collectors were. Yes, I know "rock writing" is all purely subjective, blah blah, and setting up a mood in an article can be important but mentioning H&C's in portant, but mentioning H&C's in the first column and then not again until the article's fourth column is ridiculous. You're really exceeded your masturbatory musings this time R Brown. When are you going to start doing your job properly again? Chris Rowe Auckland

It's not often I feel tempted to write to *RIU* with words of praise, but after reading Russell Brown's entertaining account of life on the road with Hunters and Collectors, I was moved to drop you a line. The article had what great rock writing is made of — plenty of wit, vivid imagery and action. Great stuff Russell — but don't get stuck in the yarum.

#### Roslyn Grundy Auckland

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For Crying Out Loud!

In response to Clifton Fuller's review of three Wellington bands at the Pulse bar in the Feb RIU, our name is For Crying Out Loud and we use a clarinet, not an oboe. Jeff Paris (F.C.O.L.) Wellington



Peking Man: (L-R) Neville Hall, Margaret Urlich, J.F. Bala, John Fearon, Perry Marshall, Pat Urlich.

#### Perils of Peking

Peking Man began playing live in 1983 and have continued to do so ever since. The NME/Smash Hits concept of predestination will argue against the possibility that doing so could conceivably lead to improvement, that a band could possibly work in its weaknesses and emerge better songwriters and performers. Oddly, Peking Man have, and live performance has grafted wings onto an ugly duckling.

"We were a bit lazy before begins Tim, the bassist, and his line of thought is picked up by another member. "I think we used to play too much on stage like we were in the studio, we were too careful musically."

Tim smiles: "We know where to play and where not to play." I ask where and there is a dry murmur in the room

"Well! ... Pukekohe's a good one to avoid .

What are you doing in a band? Why do you play live?

"The only thing we've really aimed at is communication, I suppose, or accessibility, between the band and the audience.

Neil, the saxophonist, continues: 'By playing live we've picked out the best of the best.'

And what keeps you going for two years? Everyone replies in unison "the music!" and Neville laughs, adding "We have a really good time on stage — we wouldn't put up with all this shit if we didn't!

Two years is a long time, but I'm

talking to six or seven people and that's a lot of musicians to get to know each other and work within the same musical vehicle. Change is inevitable with so many people involved; I begin to prod at the pitfalls of numbers.

Neville: "Once a song is written,

in the early stages it's a matter of subtraction from then on in so that it becomes something that a mass of people can relate to."

And what happens in the studio? 'We have to take even more out.' Too much?

Tim: "No (general murmurs of agreement). You can't ever really take too much out. We've found the limitations of 24-track - we've found we need even more space. Tracks are like money; no matter how many you've got you'll always spend your weekly income."

Is there a problem with too many people and too many tracks and a lot of subsequent "company

John (drums): "In the end it has to come down to one person making a strong decision ..." Pat

"But it's not always the same per-

So Peking Man work as a band on stage, all the talk results in a band that flows continuously and energetically. Do they play the same way in a studio? Pat begins with 'That's what we're trying to capture and there is a rush of conversation.

Tim complains that it is the mechanics of that move that are the hardest. Perry, the guitarist, notes that it needs someone who really knows what they're doing" to get from one medium to another. They eagerly cite Lillywhite ("You go in there and play live and I'll make you sound just like that.") and we discuss the problems of accurate reproduction, of having to play twice as hard to sound half as good and the growth of a luddite streak within the band, born not so much of what technology can't do, but what people can't do with technology. Tim asks me a

'What do you think?" I think you're better live. "Yeah ..." He looks resigned.

There are other obstacles, the obstacles that block native bands again and again. The fact that record companies are distribution points for a finished product, not a foster home for talent with the capacity to nurture and encourage a young band. John remains philosophical: "All that we can do is concentrate on doing our job really well, writing better music. But whether they get behind us as a result of that

Population drawbacks encourage the band to look overseas and that observation leads to more practical aims, such as an interest in aiming at the audience that is at present occupying nightclubs, the foreign niche of bands that can compete with a turntable for up-tempo attention. I point out that a lot of people who started nightclubbing very early on are now sick of it and are going to pubs or live bands or anywhere they can find that's different.

"Nightclubs don't have live bands generally because they're just not hot enough," Pat continues, noting that in a pub situation, the quirkier the band the better it goes down, ".. so you get cover bands which people somehow relate to. How, I don't

I muse as to how a cover band can stand it. Jay grins: "Five hundred bucks a weekend."

What about the future?

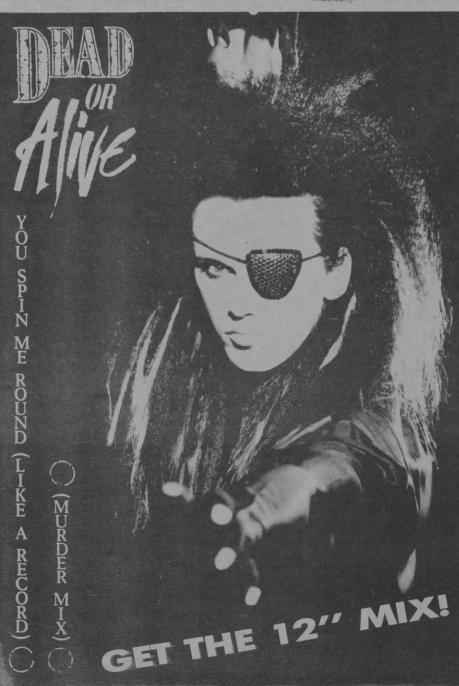
"We thought you'd never ask!" smiles Margaret, speaking for the first time in an hour. Already, they contemplate dropping the strong style that has developed.

"We're known as a funk band," ex-plains Pat. "And the first album (which they hope to record soon, against all odds) will be primarily funk. I think essentially Peking Man is a soul band, but whether that comes out as funk or rock

Tim outlines a change, to what he "wouldn't call rock music but something that does rock, something with a bit of a kick."

Less quirky? John: "The New Zealand audiences are into the quirky stuff, rather than if you sound like a ..."

A real band.



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sunlight shafting through cigarette smokes, I sit discussing music with three of the Circus Block 4 collective. The immediate impression is one of contrast. Jeff Thorp (bass) is articulate, intelligent and wears a colourful jersey. Dean Hutton (percussion) is quiet, possessed of a dry wit and clothed in low-key fashion. Darryl Rothery (manager) sports a hand-crafted leather jerkin, moustache and goatee, and sprinkles hip-isms in conversation. The differences are important; they're reflected in the melee of sound that is Circus Block 4's music.

Painstakingly crafted, the recorded songs exhibit the individual talents of the band. Though covering a variety of moods, the key elements are a punchy rhythm, innovative percussion and washes of harsh guitar. Melody takes a back seat and the lyrics have limited

meaning.
As Jeff explains, the band "shy away from lyrics. We're more interested in making music and are afraid of the concept of a frontman - someone plus Circus Block 4. We probably need another guitarist so we could put more effort into singing. Now we just concentrate on the

The band is young. It was formed in September 1983 as a fivepiece. The present team has been together since drummer Caroline Easther joined last November. Gavin McLean on guitar and soundman Mark Ingram complete the Circus Block 4 family.

Jeff sees Circus Block 4 as "a

long-term band. We're not going to make a hit. We're not writing pop songs or raunchy stuff. We're going to have to build ourselves.

Darryl believes "we've resigned ourselves to creating a sound rather



Circus Block 4

than mimicking one ... We're probably making it a bit harder for ourselves because we're not applying ourselves to the pub circuit or the Ready To Roll Top 10 little girl syndrome either. We're not trying for those markets and therefore it's a

lot harder to survive."
The two records released to date, 'In Stone In Steel' and 'Take Another Look' were recorded on 24 tracks using sophisticated technology. Both records are currently being considered for UK release by two independent labels there. According to Jeff, the next release will see the band use less equipment in an effort to realise songs as the band envisages them rather than re-writing ideas in the studio.

The next goals? "We've got to relax and enjoy the music," says Jeff. Darryl agrees:

'Yeah! We're never gonna have to do that first record again. It's our head space. Now we're going to go out and trash the road

Jeff continues: "Our sole touring experience is 10 days in Auckland. At our own gigs we had good audiences. We also supported Coconut Rough at the Gluepot. Not a lot of people came to see Coconut Rough, but it just didn't work. We spent a lot of time fretting if people didn't want to dance. Now we're more used to the idea - and I prefer it - of people coming to listen because we've spent so many hours structuring things you've got to listen quite carefully to appreciate them.

Take a(nother) look at Circus Block 4. Theirs is a sophisticated music presented on its own terms for dancing or listening. And in case you're wondering, the band's name was adopted from a painting by a Wellington artist.

**David Taylor** 

### Into the

Most of us periodically reach the point where it's time for a change - some more than others. Some people might feel frustrated with Peter and Graeme Jefferies for packing up This Kind Of Punishment and taking it back home to Stratford, Taranaki, but they have their reasons.

Since the two brothers moved back up to Auckland last year, This Kind Of Punishment has become a band. The name, taken from a line in a song from the first album, originally referred to the recording the pair (assisted here and there by Chris Matthews, who was in Children's Hour at the time) did after Nocturnal Projections broke up. The recording was done at home in Stratford, with the most basic technology. It was begun more as a series of experiments in songwriting than an album.

It was also a reaction against having been in a rock band for more than two years. As Peter explains: "The Nocturnals had written so many songs in that one vein that we just didn't want to have any more to do with it. It was just saturation, saturation of that one medium."
The result was the first, self-titled

record. It's an unusual record, with a slight air of self-consciousness that reflects the Jefferies' very definite desire to try and make a different music. It's mainly quiet, marked out by a lot of space within the songs, non-rock timings, the use of instruments like piano. The technical crudity (no mixer) meant that about the only change to what was on tape was some wide, extreme stereo panning — that also made it sound different to the usual equable stereo records. The mood is unquestionably introspective and dark. 'Ahead Of Their Time', with its "Here are 'the boys', wasting away / So different ..." finished the record and was the culmination of the factors that led to the brothers'

previous flight from Auckland. The boys had a few problems.

Whereas, as Peter says, the new album, A Beard Of Bees, "was more trying to accept and deal with problems than just moaning about them. All the songs are, even Chris's. 'The Horrible Tango' deals with the same kind of problem as 'Washed Away' did when he was in Children's Hour, but the attitude was different, more knowing. He wasn't wallowing in despair as much."

A Beard Of Bees was recorded mostly in Stratford, but partly in Auckland, last year. Chris had become more a part of the process and, although his songwriting approach is quite clearly different

something once or twice and if it recording. Chris, of course, is in his doesn't appeal to me

'So on the second album we've tried to keep each piece quite simple in itself — but our heads have been pushed to the limit with some of it. Some of the structuring is about as technical as we can get, or want to get. I want to make music that will last a long time, but it's also quite nice for people to be able to listen to it once or twice and get something out of it too and I can't see the point of going any further down the complicated structuring things at the moment. Because we're kind of at our limits now, with the second album. There's not enough to be gained out of trying to extend that any further."



they'd find themselves touring, either, but they head south this month with the Expendables. But what will be possibly the last performances of the current form of TKP will be at Auckland's Maidment Theatre on July 23 and 24. With theatre, film and music it should be something to look forward to. To be organised by Johnny and Chris it will inevitably emphasise their side of things - as does the new EP. Written and recorded during Johnny's first week with the band, it's a lot noisier, less ordered — "a lot more urban", as Peter (who used the phrase "I'm just a country boy" a couple of times during the hourlong interview) says.

element on stage. It's interesting,

however, that while TKP may have

become a "band", the performances are less of gigs than recitals. The barrier between mus-

cians and audience is broken down

with a conversational approach to

between-song patter — the effect

was even the same before the

1000-plus people who saw them

support Hunters and Collectors.

They've probably surprised

themselves with how good a live

I don't think they ever thought

group they are.

The above is really only a small part of the talk that went on both when the tape recorder was running and before and after. The two brothers would periodically go into minute detail about a particular song, or even part of a song — the impression was one of a corridor of doors, each with the name of a song on it. Open one and behind it lies a wealth of comment and explanation - the Jefferies think about what they're doing, a lot. They thought about the decision to go back home, agreed. No doubt they'll continue to make decisions in terms of what they see as the best interests of their music, often at the expense of other things - or even other people. They'll continue to piss people off sometimes, be hard to reach sometimes. But they'll continue to make music the way they want to. They're into the music.

Russell Brown



This Kind of Punishment

from the Jefferies', the album sounds like a fulfillment of what was reached at on the first record. Songs are precise pieces of music that run through their course, from beginning to end, without being verse-chorus workouts. The recording quality is far better, the range of moods is wider and the repertoire of instruments has expanded to violin, mandolin and other stringed instruments, as well as beer crates. It's obviously a record that demands listening to be appreciated

Peter: "I agree that you have to actually listen to it and pay attention - which can sometimes be a problem, because I know that's what the music needs to be appreciated, but I don't exactly blame people if they haven't got the time or energy to really try and understand what This Kind Of Punishment is trying to do. Because I don't always give other people that sort of benefit of the doubt. Quite often I listen to

"It's also really good to change," adds Graeme. "In a way we've done that already; live we're more simple than we are on record."

The original plan had actually been not to play live, but after the shift to Auckland, bedroom bass player Michael Harrison was recruited and TKP were four. Although he didn't play on all the songs, Michael's enthusiasm for playing live for the first time was a factor in encouraging the "old hands" to take the stage.

Michael has since been replaced by former Children's Hour bassist Johnny Pierce, who plays various other instruments on stage. Johnny's arrival accentuated the changes playing live has been making to the music, both in the rearrangement required (you can't lug a piano on stage) and in the moistening up of the dryness that was the sometime result of the Jefferies' meticulous approach to



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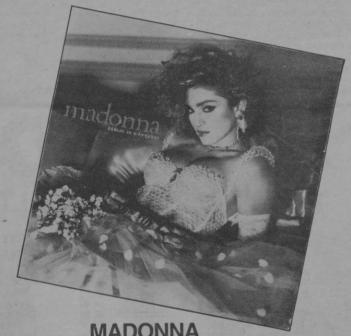
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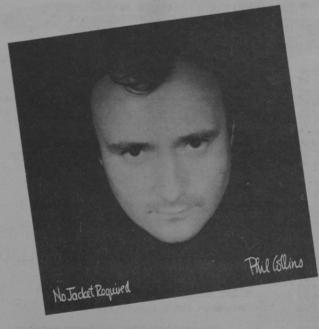
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Some guys have all the luck indeed. It is difficult to imagine anyone in the music business with a more enviable position than Robert Palmer. A smooth English soul singer with matinee idol looks, his long career has been successful enough to allow him to live in comfort in the Bahamas for the past decade and vet has never never soared to a stage where he is subjected to the worst elements of fame. Respected by his peers, praised by the critics, he's a fortunate man.

A glare of publicity as bright as the Caribbean sun is now being directed at the affable Yorkshireman — and the end result could well be elevation to higher rungs of the pop ladder.
The reason for the media blitz is

the Power Station, a project that links Palmer with two current pop superstars, Andy and John Taylor of Duran Duran, and so stands to bring him to the attention of a whole new audience of wide-eyed teeny-

We tracked down Robert in New York on the eve of the Power Station's TV debut, an appearance on Saturday Night Live. He gently laughs at the suggestion of

"Hey, I've been singing since I was 16 (20 years ago). Live TV would be nerve-wracking if you didn't have your act together, but I'm doing the show with the people I made the record with and everyone is working together so well. The whole thing has been incredibly enjoyable."
"I'd known John Taylor for some."

time (Palmer has opened shows for Duran Duran) and we'd talked about working together. The next I heard was when he and Andy phoned me at home and said "we've got a few tracks down, come and help." So they sent me a cassette of songs they wanted me to work on and I wrote the lyrics on the plane to the studio in New York.'

That studio was the Power Station, now the Big Apple's most prestigious recording room, and its

#### Robert Palmer Interview The Power & the Story



The Power Station: (L-R) Robert Palmer, Andy Taylor, John Taylor, Tony Thompson.

name was borrowed for the venture. Rounding out the lineup of Andy Taylor (lead guitar), John Taylor (bass) and Palmer (vocals) was drummer Tony Thompson, who thumped the skins for Chic and the Bowie Serious Moonlight tour. Producing the proceedings was Bernard Edwards, here taking a break from his partner in Chic, Nile Rodgers. The Rodgers/Edwards team produced all the Chic albums (an acknowledged influence on Duran Duran), Debbie Harry and Sister Sledge, so Edwards clearly has a way with a knob.

Robert Palmer is quietly ecstatic about the Power Station: "The chemistry was right from the word go and the whole thing soon

The sessions led to a self-titled album that sees the two Durannites mining a musical seam with a far higher R&B content than that found in the Duran motherlode. It's certainly difficult to visualise Simon Le

Bon singing covers of the Isleys' classic 'Harvest For the World' or T Rex's 'Get It On', but Palmer's extensive background in Anglo pop and American soul is put to good use.

But before those zealous fans of the Anglo pop princes reach for the razor blades, let's stress that we're not yet witnessing the demise of Duran Duran. For the two Taylors the Power Station was a stimulating hobby akin to the use Chris and Tina of Talking Heads make of the Tom Tom Club. Palmer is also quick to emphasise that "when the record comes out in mid-March, everyone goes their own way and that is the

"One of the most exciting things about the Power Station was that it was basically a quartet, rather than me fronting my own band. Plus, I've been producing myself over the last and be able to return to listen to it a few weeks later was a great

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An enjoyable diversion it may have been, but the Power Station stands to benefit all its principals considerably — and we're not just talking money here. As mentioned earlier, Palmer exposes himself to a new teen audience, while their part in the project may give the Taylors a credibility still largely denied Duran Duran.

The collaboration has already had Duran-bashing critics

squirming: "Some of the interviews with John and Andy have been extremely awkward for the journalists, as they've always called Duran Duran bad names and I've been something of their darling and here we are sitting together. It's a bit of a giggle," says Palmer. "Yes, I believe they've been unfair-

ly maligned and overlooked musically, but that's perhaps their own fault. They've certainly had their share of success, but what really impressess me is that they care a lot. They sit down and do these things in a big way. No one thinks these things up for them, they are creative. The music itself is a matter of taste. I mean, I don't care for the Blues Brothers and they even made a movie!

It is not out of line to suggest that the Taylors, perhaps subconsciously, may have been repaying a debt to Robert Palmer by inviting him to be their singer. The danceorientated, so-called"blue-eyed soul" of Palmer's work throughout the 70s certainly would have come to the attention of Duran Duran as they lounged around the Rum Runner and Barbarella's discos in Birmingham.

As well, Palmer's rather tongue-inchic image as the cool Casanova constantly chased around exotic locales by long-legged beauties was in place while the Duran boys were still parading the school playground in shorts. Listen to him in this Playgirl interview of 10 years ago ..

"My father was a spy ... I pursue music like I relate to a woman. I feel the rhythm first, then the melody. and finally the lyric.

Suppress any thoughts you have that Robert Palmer is an aging hipster desperately trying to revive

a flagging career. He has always kept up with new trends in pop music in a convincing way, working with such diverse musicians as Little Feat and the Meters on solo albums like Sneaking Sally Through the Alley through to Gary Numan on Clues and the System and Rupert Hine on Pride.

His production credits are similarly varied, ranging from German synth-rocker Peter Baumannn to reggae artist Desmond Dekker and American pop-rocker Moon Martin. Palmer is no musical

bandwagon-jumper. "I've never been the one to search those people out. It has always been an accident in the same way that the Power Station was an accident. With all those people you mentioned, we just bumped into each other and ended up in the studio. I can't really says why those things happen, I just thank my lucky

Robert chuckles heartily when it is mentioned that he has never been called "a boring old fart" in 20 years in the biz.

"Well, I've still got a long way to go yet, but I know what you mean. It is because I never do the same thing twice, so I don't bore myself or

There'll be a new Robert Palmer solo album out very soon and he insists "it will again be very different," without being very specific as to its sound. It won't be trendy white funk because"that is too fashionable

Not that he is totally negative about young bands getting hits with the kind of black/white crossover material he was doing 10 years ago:

"Whether or not it is superficial, there is certainly more collaboration between black and white musicians and producers and that has to be good.

His music may have often possessed the fragrant aroma of the Caribbean, but Palmer abruptly dismisses the image of him lying on a Bahamian beach absorbing the local sounds along with the solar rays.

"That is a lot of hokum. Down there it is just bands playing Top 20 covers for tourists. I'm not particularly fond of Carribean music but I'm a collector of rhythms from all over.

He apparently has proxy antennae ferretting out new sounds around the globe: "I have corresponents in cities who'll send me things they've heard, radio tapes, etc. In fact, down there I hear more music in a more open way than when I live in cities."

The Power Station record turned out so well that Palmer enlisted Bernard Edwards to produce his new effort. His last solo LP, Pride, "didn't do as well as I'd hoped, because it was extra special to me. When it came out, a lot of people felt it was too avant-garde. I thought they were crazy, but looking back, maybe they were right."

After having had success with the songs of others (from 'Pressure Drop' through to 'You Are In My System'), Robert Palmer is now finding his own songs in vogue. Seems that Tina Turner recorded a version of 'Johnny and Mary' (his best-ever composition in this critic's view) a couple of years back, but "she was having contractural problems and it never got released. I have a copy though and it's marvellous! I believe it has to be the singers themselves that pick songs. If it is a guy from the record company, it will sound contrived.

While in constant demand as a songwriter and producer, Palmer intends to concentrate on his singing.

"I'd like to sing more. That may sound silly, for I still sing in the shower, but I'd like to spend more time singing *out* of the shower. I'm definitely interested in making plenty more records."

One item that is not on Robert Palmer's future agenda is acting. At a time when any Joe Pop Star with a video under his belt thinks he is De Niro or Redford, this debonair Robert shrinks in horror at the prospect.

'Sure. I've had offers, but I'm not tempted. God no, I think the concept of acting is very ugly. It is a separate skill, totally foreign to me and it holds no interest.

"Acting is vicarious. I want firsthand emotion and I've got that!"

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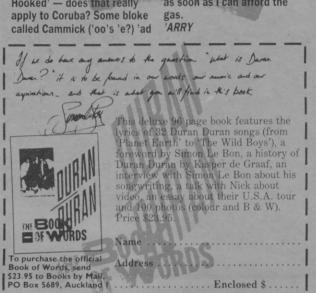
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#### 'ARRY: Letter to ...

'Ow's the weather over there in the UK? I 'ope it's bloody snowing because that might stop you 'aving so much fun and make you think about the dry entertainment scene over 'ere. Mainstreet was finally knocked down by Maggotty Anne and the Cot Death Babies, so that leaves only two live music venues, the Windsor and Stringfellows. You'd probably remember the Windsor, but Stringfellows is a different story. Beer is \$5.00, yes, \$5.00 a jug and everything 'as got 'Stringfellows' written on it, including the waitresses. Bands like Body Beat and Peking Man play there, so that says it all. Oh yeah, ya remember those old farts Hello Sailor? Yeah, well they've reformed. And the banner on the tour poster reads 'One Taste And You're Hooked' - does that really

a special on RWP last week and played bloody Michael Jackson! What's the world coming to? Last month was a full-on Australian invasion; some of 'em packing venues and some getting only eight at the Windsor (and four were bar staff). But there was this realy wally called Smilovici 'oo toured, telling jokes about as old as a pie in the face. 'E packed the venues and thought he was laughing all the way to the bank - but ha ha George, those are New Zealand dollars. And speaking of dollars, Chris Knox, Rick Bryant and Don McGlashan went in and recorded an Ethiopia song — but none of them knew bugger-all about geography and the ended up somewhere near Johannesburg. Anyrate, I've got to go and mix some more concrete in Ponsonby, so keep smiling and I'll be over as soon as I can afford the





#### The Staple Singers **Turning Point**

Just as the Kane Gang released the old Staple Singers classic, 'Respect Yourself', the Staples themselves returned to the UK charts with their superb version of Talking Heads' Slippery People Talking Heads' 'Slippery People'
— a perfect pairing of song and
singer; Mavis Staples storms
through the lyric of spiritual fervour as though a frenzied participant, while David Byrne contributes his guitar licks.
For Turning Point the Staple
Singers return to Memphis, the
scene of their early 70s Stax label
success, to record six songs by
local writers, produced by brother
Pervis Staples

Pervis Staples.

But although they achieve the Memphis sound (it's great to hear Mavis Staples' rich voice up front in the mix), lyrically they merely recycle what were once vital socio-political sentiments as cute platitudes. 'Hate Don't Live Here Anymore' and 'Bridges Instead Of Walls' are pleasant but vague notions, without adequate ubstance for Mavis Staples to lay

down a truly classic vocal. Ironically, it's 'Slippery People' (not from the Memphis sessions) which is the best vehicle for Mavis Staples — a gospel singer has to have something to shout about. They are taken back to their roots by David Byrne.

But whatever the sentiments, Turning Point is an album with a consistent southern soul sound, and one by a truly unique entity which still retains its own sound.

Murray Cammick

#### Rufus and Chaka Khan Stompin' At The Savoy Warner Bros

This double album - three sides live — is Rufus's farewell. Recorded in 1982 and released overseas in 83, its appearance here now indicates the record

company's belated faith in the lead singer's solo career. Khan's powerful voice was always the band's centrepiece and while Stompin' contains nothing as remotely hitech as her recent 'I Feel For You,' it nonetheless makes a worthy retrospective of an occasionally

great band.

Over the years, and possibly under Khan's influence, Rufus's original funk and soul became tempered by jazz inclinations. But the selection recorded at the Savoy Theatre rests largely upon their roots, with over a third of the tracks being drawn from 1974, Rufuss first year of eperation. The performances are mostly upternoand uniformly first class (No. po and uniformly first class. Khan is in fearsome form and the excellent five-piece band is augmented by two backup vocalists and a further five crack studio musicians. The result is a state-of-the-art modern showband funk, fully faithful to the original control of the properties while the properties while the properties and the properties while the properties are the properties of the properties while the properties are properties and the properties are properties and the properties are proper recorded versions while often enhancing them.

Although Rufus was always its own main writing source, the group was never reluctant to seek group was never reluctant to seek outside material. Stevie Wonder provided their first hit song, Bobby Womack contributed 'Stop On By' and here they do a sterling cover of Smokey Robinson's 'Ain't That Peculiar'. The group's cowriters have included the likes of Raw Parker Inr. and one of the new Ray Parker Jnr, and one of the new studio numbers is credited to Jeffrey Osborne. But it is Rufus keyboard player Hawk Wolinski who contributes the pick of the studio cuts, their last great single,

So overall, Stompin' At The Savoy is a considerable success, both as a live set for the longtime afficionado and as an introductory ampler for the newly interested. Peter Thomson

#### **Grandmaster Flash** They Said It Couldn't Be

First couple of times I gave it a spin I thought the Grandmaster had lost it. Too many show things, throw-away tracks, repetitions of past glories and a really bad ballad, 'Paradise', with strings and drippy vocals. But certain things begin to stand out enough to get me liking it me liking it.

The rap and the horn section of 'Sign of the Times' make it one

tough song. The turntable work on 'Girls Love the Way He Spins' sounds fresh and subtle and even their attempt at outdoing the metal sounds of Run DMC in 'Rock the House' sounds cool. There are some nice dance grooves in the old-style rap of Alternate Groove' and the electric boogie beat of of 'Larry's Dance Theme' and the slow 'Who's That Lady' is a nice inhange of page.

change of pace.

However the Grandmaster was not able to stop me listening to Run DMC's King Of Rock album, the toughest and freshest rap around. But since there doesn't seem much chance of a local release, the Grandmaster is your next best choice.

**Kerry Buchanan** 

#### Truly For You

Motown

This album is the Temptations' first with new lead vocalist Ollie Woodson. On the NZ tour last year Woodson appeared to be a lively, talented addition to Motown's legendary vocal group.

The single 'Treat Her Like A

Lady, composed by original Temptation Otis Williams and Woodson is a killer modern dance number, as is the opening track 'Running'
— but neither is indicative of the

overall sound of *Truly For You*.

The majority of the tracks are more conservative; the Tempts appear to have chosen to excel in old-fashioned harmony and leave the further adventures of super-

From the ornate title ballad to an excellent strut through the Whispers/Solar label sounding 'Set Your Love Right', the Temptations set out to differentiate between the men and the boys — old style sophistication rules.

Though some may be disappointed that only three tracks are uptempo funk, you can't deny that this is the best Tempts album since Norman Whitfield days. Murray Cammick

#### Dazz Band, Jukebox (Motown)

'Let It All Blow' has to be the standout club hit of the year so far, such a great slab of dance noise Nothing else on the album comes close to matching it, but there are some nice surprises. 'Undercover Lover' has a groove reminiscent of 'Let It Whip' and 'Dream Girl' has some fine vocals from Sennie

What I like about the Dazz Band is the good combination of funk thumpers with immaculate playing and good taste in soul ballads 'I've Been Waiting' and 'Main Attraction' which never become too sweet.

The sort of album I can play without jumping tracks — one of the better releases this year. KB Philip Bailey
Chinese Wall (CBS)

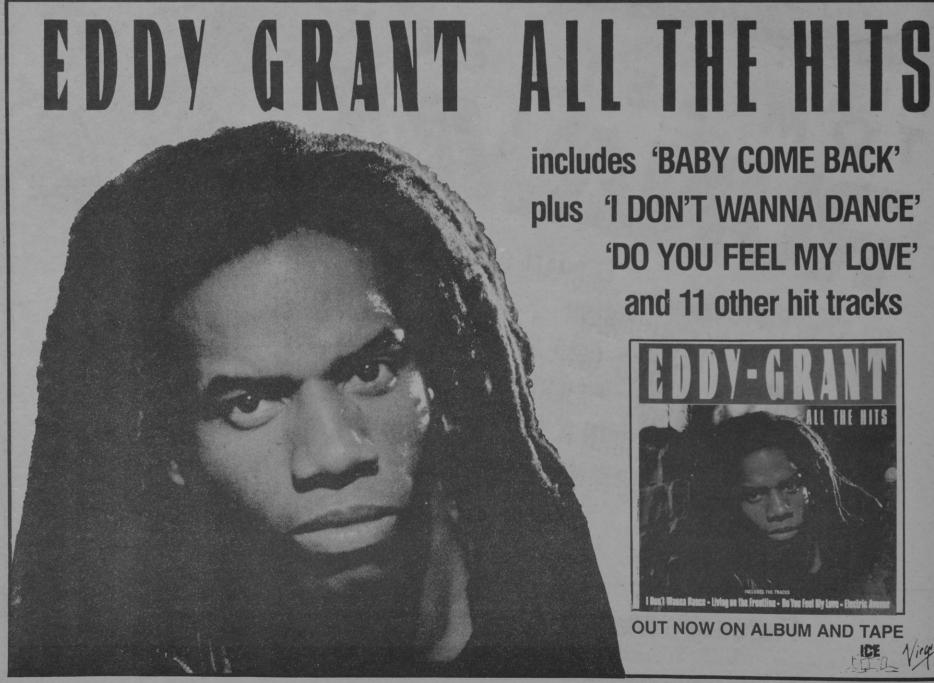
A record for the New American Conservatism; I bet Ronnie Reagan just loves it. It's your basic all-American rock album, a lot closer to Foreigner than Luther Vandross. But it gives the people what they want — four songs about how funny women are, going around breaking men's hearts and stuff, and how we men suffer so much. All set to the flat snare thump of Mr Phil Collins (the voice thump of Mr Phil Collins (the voice of a generation) and ex-Genesis guitarist Daryl Stuermer. Bailey has done some great work for Earth Wind and Fire, but on this album to show intensity his voice goes up and to show tenderness it goes down. There are no real subtleties, just loud or quiet. Buy if you like Phil Collins and wimp rock but stay away if you like good

#### **Various Artists Beverly Hills Cop Soundtrack**

Great movie and there's some good stuff on the LP. Wisely, the producers sought a coherent sound — modern dance music. Though they chose good artists, several (Junior, System, Shalamar) have turned in substandard material. However, the singles are here — Glenn Frey 'Heat Is On', Pat-ti Labelle 'New Attitude' (my fave, great 12") and the Pointer Sisters' 'Neutron Dance' Funky but weak. Ashford and Simpson MC

#### Solid (Capitol)

The single 'Solid' has been the big international breakout for this highly talented soul songwriting duo. But the album that accompanies this breakthough is a disappointment. It's hard to spot what's wrong — the songs are immaculately crafted and intelligent as usual but the gospel fervency that has fired their best recordings is missing. But this together with is missing. Put this together with a less than stellar collection of songs and the result is an album that is often diverting and refuses to kick its way into your consciousness. Solid it may be, but startling it ain't startling it ain't.



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#### News Agent: Huey Lewis

Huey Lewis is laughing over the phone; it's mirth from the gut, a gritty guffaw straight from the dirty joke in the boys' room. Like his music, it lets you know he enjoys life:

'We try not to take ourselves too seriously and have a good time and real love also has humour and confusion. But we take the music seriously. There's a certain stigma nowadays that you've got to walk around with a chip on your shoulder in order to be a serious songwriter. And critically one tends to think "well, he's a secluded asshole, he must be a genius." I don't think these two things necessarily follow."



Lewis is 34, which means he's too long in the tooth, too tempered by the ways of the West to create new frontiers. Too old for this game?

'Sure I am, but what am I gonna do, quit?" But it must get harder to carry on?

"Not really, I'm a better singer than I ever was. I don't think anyone ever gets into rock 'n' roll for girls or money. They get in because they love the music. We're getting better so I'm not over the

#### **Old News**

Lewis grew up through the 60s and the hippie era in San Francisco. Imagining he was Paul Butterfield he taught himself harmonica while travelling around Europe, then returned home and joined Clover, the band (minus Lewis) that did Costello's *My Aim Is True*. From there it was most news was good news and he formed his current lineup from out-of-work muscians in the Bay

Althought there's not a lot to get excited about in Lewis's predictable rock 'n' roll, his music has some redeeming features:

"I'd hope it's original in some way, and honest. We're a real band, we're all friends, not a collection of professionals, and if we have anything to offer it's the personality of the six of us. We insist on producing our own records, conceiving our own videos and album covers and literally and figuratively staying out of Hollywood. That attitude has lent us a little originality."

Is authenticity a prime concern?
"No, I love a blend of old and new. I love the new

tones, synthesisers are wonderful, but you've got to be careful that you play them and they don't play you. Rock 'n' roll is all about the song and I think songs are a gift and it's our job to be true to that song and it sets the standards for production, sound and the way it should be sung."
The band sounds human, bereft of technology.

Yeah, we try to make our music breathe as much as possible. Nowadays it takes more balls to leave a mistake than it does to fix one. Technology has enabled us to make perfect records. All of these big English groups would never have been big if it weren't for drum machines cos they simply don't have the

"Y'know Wang Chung's 'Dancehall Days', well you can count on one hand the drummers that can physically play that groove. It's a hard-assed second line New Orleans kind of a groove. But now everybody has the same drummer as Quincy Jones, the Linn Drum, the great equaliser.

"So the emphasis is now on perfection and that's not necessarily a rock 'n' roll quality, but that's the way it goes."

#### Sensational News: If You Read Nothing Else This Month Read This ...

Last month Ray Parker Jnr collected a Grammy for the soundtrack to Ghostbusters. Guilt wasn't one of his stronger emotions that night. Maybe it should have been — Huey Lewis and the News are suing Columbia Pictures because they ripped off 'I Wanna New Drug' for 'Ghostbusters'.

"The suit is still in litigation. My beef isn't with Ray Parker or with the music-is-sacred bit, but with Columbia Pictures.

"The movie people asked us to write some music for the song 'Ghostbusters' and they wanted something like 'I Wanna New Drug'. We didn't have the time plus we didn't like the words so we didn't do it. Anyway, they used the 12" mix of 'I Wanna New Drug' over a work print of the movie and they showed this to at least five songwriters that I know of in LA and they said 'Can you write us a song like this?' And they wrote a song but it didn't sound enough like 'I Wanna New Drug!

'Now Ray Parker admits to having seen a work print of the film with 'I Wanna New Drug' across it and then going home and coming up with 'Ghostbusters' 48 hours later.

"I know for a fact Columbia Pictures went after our song. It's one thing when someone unintentionally steals a lick, but it's another thing when a corporation goes after your song and finds somebody to copy it for them.

"That's an example of what's going on here in America. The music industry is leading the movie business by its nose and the movie people are really trying to cash in on that. Everybody's got

a soundtrack. And these people don't care about the music, they don't care about anything except money. That's not right, they shouldn't be allowed to do that.

"If someone writes a song like 'Carribean Queen' and it sounds like 'Billie Jean' then that's no big deal. The bass part to 'I Wanna New Drug' is not sacred but I know there was intent there to swipe our song and that's what pisses me off.

Ray Parker is just the guy that did it."

Adding insult to injury I mention that when I first heard 'The Heart Of Rock 'n' Roll' I thought it was Ray Parker:

You're kiddin'. (Double laughs). That's the first time I've heard that, that's funny."

#### Sports' News

The art of milking albums for singles hasn't escaped Huey Lewis and the Good News Bears. Four American top-tenners have been trained by Sports (the band's third album) alone

"At the time we weren't aware of its potential. We produced it ourselves in our local studio, but we did think it was the best album we'd done and we attribute its success to the fact that we've become better studio muscians."

The only non-original hit from the album was Chinn-Chapman's 'Heart and Soul'

'We first heard that song on a demo tape and although it was a simple song I felt it was right up our alley. It was obviously commercial and although it wasn't as big as 'I Want A New Drug' or 'The Heart of Rock 'n' Roll', I don't think they would have had a chance on AM radio if they hadn't followed 'Heart and Soul', which went to number six. It was still part of the infiltration stage. There's quite a diversity on Sports and we'll adhere to that.

The American public seem to be slow to accept but once they do you get a life ticket to

"I'm not so sure. America can be fickle. It takes a lot of time to gain recognition here but once you do the public seems to over-recognise you and they can burn you to death."

The answer is easy — get out and tour New Zealand.

"I-would love to tour New Zealand, I really mean that. I know Manfred Mann's Chris Thompson, who's from your country. But we haven't made it this year because quite frankly I don't think our records have done all that well in New Zealand. Plus we've been so busy playing the States, because when you've got a hit record here you're as hot as a pistol.

You play not so much to sell records, but to convert those fans of your records into being fans of the band so that hopefully you will last longer. At best we're a really good live band." And that's what it's all about, man.

George Kay





APRIL 29 - MAIRANGI BAY Windsor Park 30 - HAMILTON Hillcrest MAY 1 - NEW PLYMOUTH Bellblock 2 - PALMERSTON NORTH Albert 3 - WELLINGTON Victoria Uni. 4 - PALMERSTON NTH Massey Uni (students only)

5 - WELLINGTON Wellington Club

6 - NAPIER Shakespeare Inn 7 - GISBORNE DB Gisborne 8 - MT MAUNGANUI DB Mt Maunganui 9 - WHANGAREI 10 - AUCKLAND Auckland City 11 - HAMILTON Metropole 12 - PAPAKURA The Forge



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## Dancin' the Light Fantastic Exponents in Videos, Expectations & more...



By Vicky Bogle

Great whooshes of sound are coming from the practice room Auckland's Progressive Studios. Ah, if these waves of tune are anything to go by then the new Dance Exponents album should certainly attract attention on a much wider scale. There's plenty of enthusiasm in the Dance Exponents too — four hours pass before I can coax them away from their instruments for a coffee or beer break.

Dance Exponents have been busy all round of late. Having just completed two video clips with Australian film director (and Manuel of Fawlty Towers lookalike), Salik Silverstein, they are now in the studio practising with stand-in drummer Eddie Olsen for next month's national concert tour.

Expectations is the name of the

new album and 'My Love For You' will be the first single from it in New Zealand. Australia has gone for 'Greater Hopes'. Hence the need for two videos. But both clips will be screened on television here, and having spent some time studying the production of the two I can guarantee they will be among the most exciting videos to be made in this country.

Salik escaped back to Australia before I had a chance to talk to him. What's his background?

"He did the 'Sex and Agriculture' clip as well," says guitarist Chris Sheehan, chewing away on his string of black beads. "Mushroom introduced us to him in Australia. We interviewed all these people to do videos for us, all these freelance video directors.

"He was the best table tennis player," interjects bassist Dave Gent. "What happened was we thought

of an idea for the clip and then in-

terviewed all these different sorts of people who wanted to do it," Chris continues. "And they all came along and said exactly the same thing that we'd imagined - with the house and the bloody fields of hay. And then Salik came along and said what everybody else had said, but then said that he had changed his mind that morning and decided to do something completely different."
"And he had the picture board of

what he wanted to do all written out continues singer Jordan Luck.

"He was a good talker, basically," Dave concludes.

Do you know anything about the film Salik made to do with rape? "Groping ... it's good," nods Dave.

You saw it? I thought it was

Brian: "It was, because some women thought it was encouraging or glorifying rape. There were women who actually went out and

protested about it.' Chris: "It's stupid when you think

of Salik, because he's the last person in the world who would do a sexist sort of movie.

"But it's not," adds Brian. "It's sort of sick in that it's so real.

'What, like 'The Boiler' is lyrically?", asks Jordan, who hasn't seen the film. ('The Boiler' is a terrifying song about rape as told by Rhoda Dakar of the Special AKA.)

Brian: "Yeah, but even more so because it's really gory and horrible because you're seeing it on film. It's really weird.

Dave: "And it's so surreal as well that it may look as if he could be trying to exploit it."

Salik's a fairly surreal bloke isn't

"That's his favourite word, really," says Jordan.

Of the two videos, the one for 'Greater Hopes' was shot at night, outdoors, while 'My Love For You' was done in the studio. The band members say they're happy with the finished products and are adamant that the two are as good as each

"Both clips suit the songs," ventures Brian.

"And they're both completely different," concludes Dave.

And it took two weeks to do two

Chris: "Yeah, but it's not the time that matters, it's the money. We were lucky that Salik could get two done for not much more than the price of one."

It's interesting to note that the Dance Exponents do come up with most of the ideas you see in the videos, although Jordan says that Salik "pretty much does the lot." He also says: "It's either someone who is really adamant that they do it all or someone who is really flexible. And that's a good thing, because when we were working with early clip makers like TV New Zealand and that, we didn't have that opportuni-

ty. It was basically very much them." Dave: "You just don't do your own

"Yeah," Jordan continues. "And they also made you feel as if (puts on a sleazy sort of voice) 'Jeez you're lucky to be able to do this,' as if you're very fortunate people to have a clip made for you. Whereas Salik is jammed full of ideas so that if you don't like one, he'll just bring another

Brian: "We make music and he makes film clips and we trust his ability to make our film clip because we've seen his work and we know what he's aiming for and his ideas suit what we're doing

Dave: "And even if it's not as good

as what you may have thought it would be, it's worth it for not just trying to have a glossy clip or a stupid story-line clip like everyone else. I mean the chances are you might do something a bit different and then even if it doesn't work it's still

Today is drummer Eddie's first practice with the band and while the interview continues he bashes away on the other side of the wall

"The reason we're playing with Eddie is because he's such a good drummer that we know he can walk in and do what's necessary," Brian

"And we don't have to think about that he's playing, you just have to think about what you're doing yourself," adds Dave

Back to the clips - were you conscious of putting across a particular image in either video?

"Just us, hopefully," Dave

"Just what we want to look like," Chris adds. "Everyone just wears

what they wear anyway."
Dave: "Yeah, we were wearing different clothes every night, depending on on what was going on. It was at the stage where as soon as CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

#### **Taylor Made** Talkin' to the Producer by Russell Brown

Late last year it didn't look like the Dance Exponents would be able to do another album. A suitable producer hadn't been found, the people at Mushroom Records Australia were less than encouraging, it was going to cost a lot of money and prospects were fairly

Then word came through that an international producer, lan Taylor, had picked out the Dance Exponents from a bunch of demos sent to him by Mushroom — and wanted to produce their next album. The band recall the Aussie record company people being considerably friendlier after that ...

"It just stuck out a mile for me," Taylor says, explaining why he picked up on the Exponents' demo. "Mainly because Jordan had goodsounding words and the music was ... not weird because I didn't think it was weird, I just thought it sounded interesting to me.

"I thought 'I don't know where this is coming from' or how they'd arrived at that. Because lots of music you can listen to and think 'Well, yes, I've heard that before, no surprises, nice sound And the two guitar players - I thought 'Well, they're not going to sound like anyone else I've heard before.' Maybe bits of it do but tons of it doesn't."

So Taylor spent something over a month in Mandrill Studios with the band — often working through until 6am during the last two weeks. The result was Expectations, probably the most expensive album to be recorded in this country and the big punt for Dance Exponents and Mushroom NZ.

A well-spoken 27-year-old Londoner, Taylor has produced groups ranging from Ministry to Sham 69 to Romeo Void. Working as engineer to US supremo Roy Thomas Baker he was part of albums by biggies like the Cars. He also mixed the last Bob Dylan studio LP, *Infidels*. His most recent production work before the Exponents album was with Ministry and, before that, Rick Ocasek. He told the Exponents one of the attractions of their tape was that it "sounded like a band playing" and admits he was looking for a break from the recording-as-electronic-construction method of doing things in the

y it was just one guy, myself and Vince (Ely, the former Psychedelic Furs drummer who also stood in on the Exponents' album), in a control room with a load of synthesisers and a drum kit and so on. And apart from four songs which we'd recorded earlier, we more or less made the whole thing in the studio. I ended up getting a songwriting credit, which is sort of unusual for a non-musician. But I can sit with a tape machine and construct a song. Instead of having to actually sit down and play it, if the notes are there on the tape but they're in the wrong order or something, you can sit there with a tape machine and help somebody write a song.

"So I did Ministry and that took quite a long time and prior to that I'd just done some work with Rick Ocasek's album, which was a similar sort of thing except he had the songs, but it was just one guy sitting in a studio fiddling with synths and stuff. The Ministry record I really enjoyed, Rick's record I quite enjoyed, but it took so long that I got to know it really well and by the time it was finished, listening to the record you

didn't get that thrill of hearing the finished

"So I just felt the process of doing that was becoming a bit dull and I decided I'd like to do some work again with people who were actually playing together and creating something that wasn't just a polished sound, creating a feel. You can create a feel in writing and have synthesisers and drum machines and still in the vocal create a feel — but you can create a lot more if it's ac-

tually four people playing off each other."

Taylor actually began his engineering career a long way from synthesiser technology, and even from guitars, at the twin studio owned by the publishing firm Chappell Music in London a studio which recorded more MOR acts than anything else.

"I wrote hundreds of letters away when I was at school and started out as an assistant making tea. I didn't actually do any tape operating for about two months — I just made good tea. But if you make good tea and you get on with the people you work with, you eventually get to do some assisting. I started that when I was 16 or

"Chappell had a 24-track studio and a 16-track The 24-track was a big studio with big rooms and everything and we'd record stuff like Shirley Bassey and Bing Crosby. With a lot of those you'd have the whole band of 40 musicians in the studio at one time and the solo singer standing in a booth. We used to do that sort of thing just about every day. Then in the 16-track we'd do bands, mostly demos for the publishing company and then if they turned out alright maybe

actually doing some tracks for a record."

Unlike some producers, Taylor didn't get involved in studio craft through being a musician:

"I just liked playing around with mixing con-soles. What actually made me start was being a mad record collector and going to gigs and seeing the guy at the sound desk sitting there and thinking 'Wow, look at that, he doesn't have to pay to get in, he probably gets paid for doing that —

Those early gigs were in pre-punk days and he had been working for about three years when punk turned the British music scene upside

"That was a really good time, because I'd just started engineering really. And without being a brilliant engineer I just sort of got involved in the

"It was quite a funny old time ... I was doing some demos with a friend, because in London studios you can usually get the studio to work in over the weekend if there's no one there. This friend was a guitar player and we got in a bass player and a drummer and recorded the whole song with a melody on and the guitar player sang it and it was awful, because he was such a bad singer. And that night we went to a party in South London and there was a guy there who was going on about how brilliant the Sex Pistols were. He said 'I've just seen this band play at the 100 Club, they're fuckin' marvellous! You've gotta see

"And we just got talking to him about being in the studio and how the singing we had was crap and he said 'I could fuckin' sing it.' So I asked him if he'd ever done any singing before and he said Yeah, 'course I have' and I said 'In the studio?' and he said 'No. no

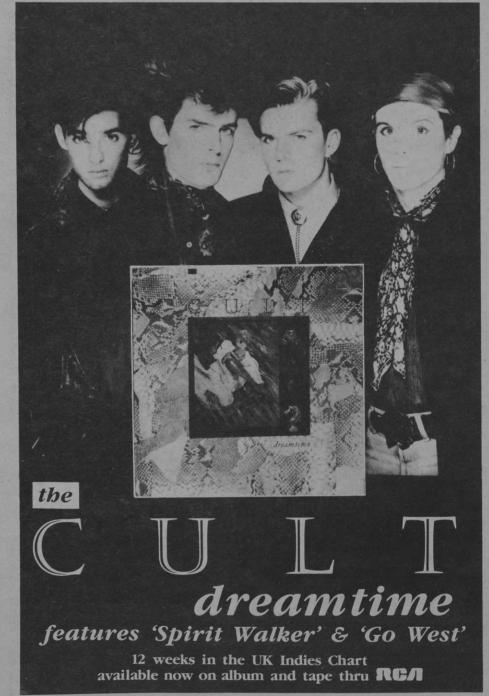
"He was actually lying about having sung, but the next day he came in and sang this song and that was Richard Butler of the Psychedelic Furs. That was the first time he'd ever sung — it was good though."

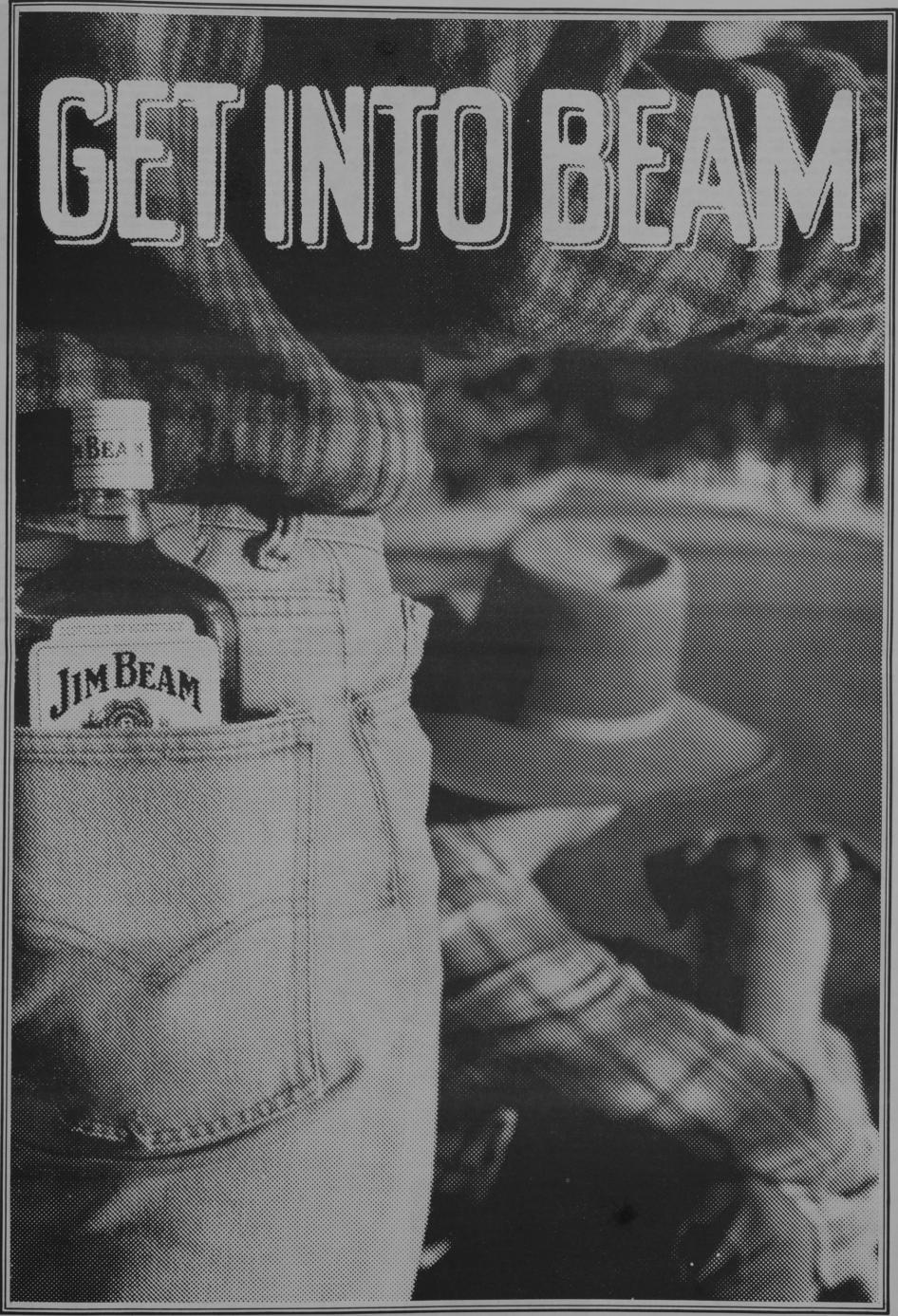
So did he have the style and mannerisms we're familar with back then?

"He didn't quite have the style — but nearly, nearly. He was into a lot of bondage gear then

- this was pretty early days."
Soon after that Taylor moved onto Phonogram

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18





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#### **Taylor Made** Talkin' to the Producer

"IAN TAYLOR" FROM PAGE 16
Studios, where among the fledgling producers was a chap called Steve Lillywhite:

"He was just starting to produce things. He got in this band called Ultravox to do some weekend sessions and then took the tapes to Island Records who said 'Ooh, this is really good.' Another guy there at the time was Steve Brown, who went on to do Wham and various other

"I did a lot of work with Jimmy Pursey (of Sham 69) — his own stuff and the stuff he started to produce there, like the Angelic Upstarts. It was great fun at the time, absolutely great fun.

But one day there was a half page ad in Melody Maker, calling for "a brilliant engineer". The man behind it was Roy Thomas Baker, the man who had first made his name with the over-the-top sound of the early Queen records. Taylor became Baker's right hand man for several years (once even accompanying him to this country for the Harlequin School of Engineering in 1980). His engineering skills have clearly stayed sharp since he has struck out on his own — Mandrill man Tim Field was heard to echo those words "brilliant engineer" more than once in the course of the



Guest drummer Vince Ely, Brian Jones, lan Taylor.

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There's a lot of talk these days about the role of the producer in modern music becoming too great — understandably, Taylor doesn't subscribe to that view

"I don't think it can get too great. All these things come and go ... one day people will want produced-sounding records, in a period later maybe people will get bored with the sounds and it'll go back to something else. I think we've already seen that in the whole punk thing. Records were getting to be very technical before that. But I don't think you can have too much of things — a talented producer is just as entitled to make a record as a talented musician.

For me, people like Trevor Horn are pushing the boundaries of modern recording technology, which is something that has to keep expanding It's no good saying 'you shouldn't be using Fairlights and all those keyboards and let's get back to making really earthy records,' because making earthy records or whatever you're not breaking any boundaries as far as the actual recording of things goes. And there's an awful lot happening technically, with the digital recording process. There's a whole new process of making records with the Fairlight Computer."

In what respect is it different?

"Because it's less people all playing together. You can shape the sound to be exactly what you want to the control of the

want. You're getting a quality that you've never

"For instance, most songs will have sections in them that repeat themselves, most songs are fairly symmetrical. And it's possible for you to do sections once and repeat them, or if the band didn't play one section so well you can move whole sections of the songs around. So the whole song itself becomes very fluid, as opposed to having to sit there and play it onto a tape in a 'correct' sort of form."

But how much is it becoming a matter of cost?
"That's very true, yeah. I think in all recording, if you make a record on an eight-track, you'll get an eight-track-sounding record, whereas if you go to the best 24-track there is, providing you have pretty competent people working with you wou're ground to make a professional sounding. you're going to make a professional-sounding record. And it's the same thing with Fairlights. You're just getting the best keyboards and it's just another studio tool that allows you to have bet-

ter sounding records."

Does it matter if bands can't reproduce their records live?

No, not at all. It is sometimes, in that seeing a band with tapes can be a bit boring, but I'd much rather see a band that have tapes backing them up and sound good than a band who don't have tapes backing them up and sound out of tune and crap and not half as good as the records. But I suppose it's only the records being so well put together that makes the situation arise in the first place.

What's it take for a band to make a successful

record? Are there certain ingredients? "No, nothing that you could put your finger on. I think there's too many important things to list or put in order of priority or anything. You just know it when you hear it."

So you had no specific things to apply to the

Dance Exponents' record?

"Not really, it was just more parts of songs that let down the song as a whole — that's how I tend to think about things. You wonder how much the band have thought about a weaker section of a song and whether it's possible to maybe think about it a little further and try and develop something that's better. But you want to retain as much of the quality of the band as possible you don't want to walk in and turn it into something else because all you end up with is nothing. You have to somehow maintain the magic qualities of the band that excited you in the first place but pull up some of the weaker

Tim Field commented that a lot of the things you did in the studio went almost right against what he'd been taught was the right way. Do you work differently from most overseas engineers or is it just us in New Zealand?

"I don't know really. I just fiddle around with it till it sounds good. I'm not really too conscious of it because it seems so long ago since I was taught anything that I can't really remember what I was taught. And I don't think I was taught that there was particularly a right way and a wrong way to do certain things. I think what you listen to, the balances you have, what EQs you use and how much echo you use, I don't think there are rules for that. There can't be rules for that there's rules for things like 'this is how you make this work' and 'this is how you plug this piece of equipment in' and 'these are the boundaries within which this piece of equipment works

Well, the album has now been completed, mixed, cut and pressed. The month of its making seems to have been a successful and enjoyable one for all concerned. It's now down to lan Taylor to offer a word on the album's chances overseas

"It's very difficult to tell, quite honestly. I think the chances are very good for this album but the problem is always whether anybody will ever get to hear it. If the band becomes more internationally visible ... which may entail going to America. A bunch of New Zealand guys in America is already sort of Well, they've come this far ...' and they'll create interest when they play. They're a good band and I know that if people hear them they'll like the music. The secret is actually going to these places — 'I'm Jordan Luck, I'm an interesting guy, listen to me.' That's what it's all about."

# Dillig Exponents



# EXPECTATIONS

their new recording on album and tape includes the hit single 'My Love For You'

#### NEW ZEALAND TOUR: MAY

- 11 HAMILTON, Founders Theatre
  - 12 WHANGAREI, Stadium
  - AUCKLAND, Town Hall
  - 14 HASTINGS, Municipal Theatre
    - WELLINGTON, Town Hall Book at The Opera House

- 10 TAURANGA, QE Centre 17 PALMERSTON NORTH, Opera House
  - 19 NELSON, Trafalgar Centre
    - INVERCARGILL, Civic Centre
      - DUNEDIN, Town Hall
      - TIMARU, Theatre Royal
    - 24 CHRISTCHURCH, Town Hall



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#### The Builders CoNCH3 South Indies

Can we deal with the periphery first? Stu Page's neat monochrome cover seems to come out at you; Bill Direen "up front". Turn it over, *more* pictures of those involved; where Split Seconds left you to guess, CoNCH3 tells you exactly who played on what track, where each song was recorded. In the sober press release that arrived with the record: "Due to interest in other fields such as the theatre and writing, (Direen) has often been regarded as someone who prefers obscurity to publicity. He is now attempting to redress the balance. Current projects — investigating the possibilities of brass and percussion.

CoNCH3 is a record of songs recorded recently and all written within the last couple of years. It's interesting that the only track that pales with repeated listening is the only non-Builders one, 'Lovers', recorded at the 3ZM studios with local band Vague Secrets. Indeed, despite its pop elements, CoNCH3 is a record that takes a few listen-

ings to settle into.

The pop — whether lightfooted and evasive, like 'Clifford Flats', or looney like 'Alligator' (reminiscent of Lou Reed's ol' 'Do the Ostrich' but how do ya dance like an alligator?) — is intelligent and immensely likeable (of course, whether pop should be that intelligent is another matter). Alongside those songs are three written for Blue Ladder productions; that Direen, using mainly voice and guitar, can evoke so much ... 'Holydays', written for the theatre's production of James K. Baxter's *Mimes* is perhaps the

There are some good people along to help here — Greg Bainbridges bass playing is dextrous but thoughtfully funky and Stu Pages percussion remains stead-fastly non-standard. They come through more strongly in the wilder works, like 'Black Doors' (present on the Above Ground tape as a blast of glorious gib-berish, here a weirdo funk workout), 'Coalman' (also on the



Mick Jagger Orange Juice's Edwyn Collins

AG tape, longer and a little less intense here) and the boisterous jam 'Alligator'. Elsewhere, Maryrose Wilkinson sings a lovely, lost vocal on 'Holydays' and Jay Clarkson gradually takes up the lead vocal in 'Look East', balancing out some great, whining guitar.

The stated emphasis on rhythm is clear here and while, especially in the use of the congas, it's a lit-tle gratuitous in a couple of places, the timings and beats throughout set this record apart. You can en



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Contoured Lubricated. **Ultimate Condoms** are priced below most brands and are available in packs of 3's and 12's at your chemist.



Stevens Distributors Ltd Auckland

What presence! The Smiths' se cond album opens with the effervescent yelp of 'The Head-master Ritual' and finishes with only *one* ineffectual song, ironically the title track. Morrissey has always possessed a magnificent-ly tarnished vision, a New Brass Dream, and the first three songs on this album are the best examples of it to date. The music is criminally charming, the crispest, most sparkling pop, and the wit and irony are in clever-dick abundance, a precocious display ("Her skirt ascends for a watching eye /

joy 'Clifford Flat' once as a pop song, and again for its arrange-ment, see?

Direen and co. records have always been good friends — CoNCH3 is positively gregarious.

Russell Brown

#### Orange Juice The Orange Juice (The Third

Talking about singers, it was the Chills' Martin Phillipps who said that trying for the note, not hitting it, was the important thing. Orange Juice's Edwyn Collins was born to fit that comment. Way back as ear-ly as the band's first album he tried to tackle Al Green's 'L.O.V.E.'; let's just say that sincerity just wasn't enough to save it.

Since then, Rip It Up and Texas Fever have continued to air his flights of fancy, sometimes char-ming, sometimes droll and forced and sometimes too indicative of his narcissistic tendency to worry too much about how people see

At first glance The Orange Juice (The Third Album) seems to be merely a showcase for Collins' indulgence and the degeneration of Orange Juice as a functional entity (three producers are used and only two permanent band members, Collins and Zeke Manyika), as there's Edwyn decked out in mournful shades and black vinyl, hardly signs that the album's about to wrestle with the

world's problems.

And sure enough, the dreariness and resignation of 'Lean Period', 'Out for the Count,' 'Get While the Getting's Good' and 'All That Ever Mattered' confirm the cover's impression that he's often too self-absorbed in his own predicament to reach for outside

But there's another, more positive, side to the album and to Collins' music, as is portrayed by the reverse sleeve's smiling faces and the delightful subtleties of 'I and the delightful subtleties of 'I Guess I'm Just A Little Too Sen-sitive' and 'Burning Desire', songs reminiscent of Roddy Frame's technique. And leaving the best until last means 'What Presence'!' and the almost-blues 'The Artisan', songs of menace and bite where Collins lets his guitar speak for Collins lets his guitar speak for

Since The Orange Juice, Collins has, quite predictably, squashed the band. Whatever way he falters or reaches next, there's just enough substance on this album to keep me watching him trying to hit that next. hit that note.

George Kay

#### Mick Jagger She's The Boss

Mick Jagger apart from his Rolling Stones is not an unappealing idea. 'Memo From Turner' from the soundtrack of the elusive film Performance was released as a Jagger solo single and allowed him to extend the Stones' dark satanio myth in one of his finest performances (what other word?). Then why, oh why, is She's The Boss such a bore.

No, I wasn't expecting a Rolling Stones album, although that, I think, is not easy to define. Nor Papa Rolling Stone digging back into the Dartford Delta with his best impersonations of Robert Johnson, Slim Harpo, et al. An interesting record might have been

There's no shortage of talent.

Jagger has the assistance of two other producers, Bill Laswell (Nona other producers, Bill Laswell (Nona Hendryx, Herbie Hancock) and rhythm master Nile Rodgers (Chic, Diana Ross). Musicians include Jeff Beck, Pete Townshend and Nile Rodgers on guitars, Robbie Shakespeare and Sly Dunbar in the engine room, Herbie Hancock on keyboards. Lots of others. A heavenly lineup. But mostly the blend of funk, reggae and rock elements fails to catch fire.

Mick Jagger once was a symbol (or demonic, whichever you preferred). Today he is of that society he once appeared to threaten. There

**Ken Williams** 

The Smiths Meat Is Murder Rough Trade

It's a hideous trait on her mother's side") of charm steadily weighted with a discerning cynicism ("And if you ever need self-validation / Just meet me in the alley by the railway station").

Both Morrissey's thoughts and his vocals remain icing on the musical cake of Johnny Marr; the newest stylistic development is the increasing separation bet-ween the two, to paradoxical advantage. Two individuals who work smoothly together in the perfect

smoothly together in the perfect marriage.

And that, for sure, is the only relationship of which Morrissey could ever approve. "Although I walk home alone, my faith in love is still devout." he sings in 'Rusholme Ruffians', yet precedes it with the sarcastic backlash of "Scratch my name with a fountain pen (this means you really love pen (this means you really love me)." The boy is too clever for his own good; his love is a precious faberge egg described by a ham-fisted draughtsman, and best left unrequited. His lyrics keep Zang Tumb Tumm executives awake at night and his band have produced two intelligent, witty and feeling albums that stand as well on their attitude as they do on their technique.

Chalk one more up to the Smiths; Meat Is Murder is a gold nugget amidst 1985's compost heap of recycled pop.

**Chad Taylor** 

#### The Fall The Wonderful and Frightening World Of ... Beggars Banquet

Is it a case of Lennonitis?
Domestic bliss with Brix blitzes hick priest Smith? Are the Fall drying up and burning out? Mark E. Cha-charred? Well, to be honest, no, no, no and no. I must admit the Altered Image strain staining 'C.R.E.E.P.' had me worrying that music had turned another full cycle and what we had here was the new Wings. But the here was the new Wings. But the pop sensibility simmering under the surface of the new Fall album shouldn't come as too much of a surprise. Ironic as it seems, the Fall

do, after all, rank as one of Britain's best singles bands in recent years. As we enter *The Wonderful and Frightening World Of ...* it's obvious there's been some sandpapering here, evidence of the arrival of Brix smith, who, as well as providing healthy chunks of guitar, co-wrote seven of the albums 10 songs. What passes as rough edges to one person can be the gloss to another, but here the Fairly generally the first beautiful to the control of the song t

rub off well and in the right places.

Apart from the ponderous 'Bug Day, side two is the stronger, with goodies like 'Slang King,' 'Stephen Song' and 'Disney's Dream Debased'. Diehard fans will be soothed by the comfortingly out of tune guitars in 'Graigness'. 'Elves' is a direct rip off from 'I Wanna Be Your Dog', but still runs the nuclear-themed 'Lay of the Land'

close as side one's best.

Much has been made of this record's production and while it unquestionably rates as the cleanest and least frantic Fall effort to date, there are times when the whole sound descends into a wonderful, grimy grind of Grotesque proportions. It appears those holding their breaths for the Fall sellout may have to turn a shade bluer and sit tight a little

**Shayne Carter** 

#### Van Morrison A Sense Of Wonder

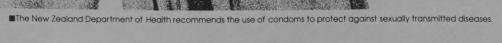
Mercury

Van Morrison continues to explore the spiritual, with mixed, and often marvellous, results.

As with recent albums, Morrison favours a "wide", spacious, even reverential tone that drifts like Celtic mist, and then is punctuated by some sinuous echo of his rhythm 'n' blues past or a breath of the Irish traditional music which colors recent work There are two instrumentals, and but they're just right, so one shouldn't quibble. His singing is often superlative. The Ray Charles song 'What Would I Do' took a while to register — it's fragile, a breeze in a tree — but now I rate it highly.

However, disaster hovers over the album's most ambitious (a worrying word) piece, 'Let Thy Slave, a plunge into William Blake land. Against some excessively portentous music by Mike Westbrook, Morrison intones Blake's 'The Price Of Experience' For one so gifted with words, his recitation is hopelessly insensitive.

Better forgotten.
But Morrison's fans have always forgiven his failures. His chances have been chances of the heart. He is startlingly good when he hits a pitch that jolts that particular anatomical region. He still does. Ken Williams



VIENNA ONE SMALL DAY DANCING WITH TEARS IN MY EYES PASSING STRANGERS • WE CAME TO DANCE VISIONS IN BLUE REAP THE WILD WIND THE THIN WALL LAMENT ALL STOOD STILL . HYMN . LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

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Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers **Southern Accents** 

The distance from traditionalism to retrogression is not far. Within three LPs — from 79's Damn the Torpedoes to 82's Long After dark — Tom Petty had slumped from a peak of rock in 10 to 10 t heroism into tired conservatism. Which, all things considered, is about par for the course, even with the most talented of those working rock's traditional verities. Consider Bob Seger's slide from Night Moves to Against the Wind (Springsteen alone seems

Yet like Seger's gritty re-emergence with *The Distance*, here is Petty fighting to revitalise his style. And the way he's doing it is by trying on other people's styles. Sometimes this dressing up is fun — as with 'Make It Better; a 60-ish soul romp, complete with female backup and punching soul riffs. Sometimes it's maudlin, as on the string-sodden title track. Once it's even downright embarrassing — when the band tries to disco on 'It Ain't Nothin' To Me.

But a few tracks integrate their borrowings. 'Mary's New Car' may well have originated as a Springsteen pastiche but it becomes Petty's own. Similarly, 'Spike' coentirely dispensed with, however. The album opens with as barnstorm ing a rocker as he's ever recorded. It would be joyous were it not so cliched. But it's mainly on side two of Southern Accents that the hopes for Tom Petty's future are to be found.

**Peter Thomson** 

#### **Everything But The Girl**

Blanco Y Negro

I've spent many an evening with a gin and tonic and Tracey Thorn's A Distant Shore, and it looks as if Eden could be another one of those records.

Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt make very modest records, not a hint of pretension (or a synth) anywhere, and all in their delightfully flat flat voices. Tracey Thorn does most of the singing, with the exception of 'Tender Blue', a sort of duet-thingy, and 'Soft



Tracey Thorn, Ben Watt, Everything But The Girl.



It's not really a departure from A Distant Shore (sorry, couldn't resist it), her songs have been fleshed out with mostly jazz backings and some especially nice trumpet from Dick Pearce and sax

from Pete King and Nigel Nash. And the songs? Yes — RELA-TIONSHIPS. Not the "Ooh baby, I love you" kind, but the differing points of view, I-hate-it-when-I'm-like-this kind. An unobtainable

This is a record that adds up to a larger whole. See you at the bot-Fiona Rae

The Pale Fountains . From Across the Kitchen **Table** 

These surprises come from the most unexpected quarters. Last year Liverpools Pale Fountains, Paleys to their friends, sounded like the most aptly named band of the decade with the release of their Pacific Street debut album; a record of laid-back anaemia, so

tasteful it was inaudible.

In the interim they've wised up,
the "they" referring to founding
members and creative fulcrums Mike Head and Chris McCaffrey, by enlisting another guitarist, John Schneider, to toughen up the music and lend added needle. Plus songwriter Head has improved beyond belief, not only in the content/arrangement of his songs, but also in his vocal delivery, where, with with ex-Bunnymen producer lan Broudie presiding, assumes occasional McCulloch mannerisms

In fact songs like 'Stole the Love,'
'Bicycle Thieves,' Limit' and 'Bruised Arcade' wouldn't disgrace the
Bunnymen at their best. Head's lyrics may be his weak point but the band's fusion of energy and dexterity results in an atmosphere that gives his material additional character and presence.

Most albums in the current post-punk "progressive" vein are nothing but hollow shams, the by-products of supposed talents who've hit on a sound or fad. Feel sure that the Pale Fountains lie in the opposite direction ... From Across the Kitchen Table has to be regarded as "seriously" as Lloyd Cole's *Rattlesnakes*. Deal with it.

#### George Kay Jason and the Scorchers Lost and Found

EMI America

You only have to look at the sleeve photos for Lost and Found to guess that Jason and the boys have been able to afford a few more beers since they released their debut mini-LP, Fervor. Puffy features, pink eyes ... real bar room

The bad news is, a little of the flab seems to have found its way onto the new record — there's a mid-range guitar grunge about tracks like the single 'White Lies' and 'If Money Talks' that distances them a little further from when they were the *Nashville* Scorders' lead from before the record company. (and from before the record company remixed Fervor for mass consumption). But it's generally when drummer Perry Baggs does the songwriting that things get a little turgid rather than sharp. When Jason Ringenberg's on the job

Maybe the most appealing thing about Jason is his lyric writing. Romantically wordy, he marries the naievete and melodrama of country music tradition with a modern sense of knowing. In that sense, "country punk" is a more appropriate tag for the words than the music. In 'Still Tied, the tale of an old black man who's battled the racial hate of the South all his life, he sings: "A Southern grave still stands waiting / The congregation sings a victory

Jason doesn't let his songs become as cluttered as either the Baggs tunes or the two covers, 'I Really Don't Want To Know' (1953)

Really Don't Want To Know (1953) and 'Lost Highway' (1949).

And, seeing as the Scorchers are definitely Jason's band, Lost and Found is an enjoyable, sometimes charming, generally kickass, success. All I'd like to hear is something of the leaness of a band like the Long Ryders. But, shit, I'd buy Jason a beer any day of the week

Russell Brown

#### John Martyn Sapphire Island

John Martyn's previous album for WEA, Well Kept Secret, mysteriously lived up to its name — an undeserved fate for an excellent album. Back on Island Records. where he's done the bulk of his work, Sapphire represents a retreat from the up-tempo sound of Well Kept Secret and setlles for a relaxed format more akin to

a relaxed format more akin to Grace and Danger.

Aided by sympathetic guitar from Barry Reynolds and a precise rhythm section, Martyn weaves through a pattern of sounds reminscent of a Sunday afternoon stroll. Even that old whore, 'Over the Bainbow' works in this context. the Rainbow, works in this context. A faultless combination of soothing ballads in the inimitable Martyn tradition, without the excess es og the more extreme jazz rock experiments which have marred some of his work. Highly recommended.

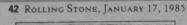
**David Perkins** 

#### QED **Animal Magic**

One of the brightest moments in last year's all-stars-play-the-classics gig (aka The Party Boys) was when Jenny Morris took her solo on 'Going Out Of My Head'. She'd always had that lovely voice of course, but it had been almost five years since we'd heard her fronting the Crocodiles. Now she's a third of QED, an Australian unit that also consists of a bassist and a guitarist, plus additional hired

Both the strengths and weaknesses of Morris's current position may be gauged by considering QED's treatment of an old Crocodiles' number, 'Everywhere I Go. On one hand the new version is vastly superior to the original and makes one of the catchiest pop singles so far this year. Yet the fact that it's also easily the strongest track on the album does highlight. OF D'e limitations highlight QED's limitations. Elsewhere potentially strong tracks are lock-stepped by rigidified rhythm playing. Only the title number escapes, but it to suffers from a production that

surfers from a production that seems more interested in the snare drum than Morris establishing the melody. Perhaps if/when QED expand their regular lineup their sound may strengthen. Meanwhile it's the single that best represents Jenny Morris's talents as both writer and singer.
Peter Thomson





**HOW WILL THE WOLF SURVIVE?** 

MIXING THE SOUL OF RURAL MEXICAN music with good-rocking American roots, How Will the Wolf Survive? is one of the best records of 1984.

Though Los Lobos' EP of little more than a year ago hinted at their energy and style, this new collection of songs by the East L.A.-based quintet shows their versatility: from the gentle R&B of "A Matter of Time" to the polkalike romp of a couple of Mexican ranchero tunes to the honky-tonk spirits of "Our Last Night" and "I Got Loaded." The choicest cut, though, is "Will the Wolf Survive?" allegory that's given a lovely C&W lope. "Through the chill of winter/Running across a frozen lake/Hunters hot on his tail/All odds are against him/With a family to provide for/The one thing he must keep alive/Will the wolf survive?" Hidalgo sings in one verse.

There isn't a dud among these songs. It's the kind of record that dances you around till you're worn out. Produced by T-Bone Burnett and the band's sax man, Steve Berlin, the album has a big, clean sound, replete with mandolin figures, drifting lap-steel leads and accordion parts. The guys in Los Lobos must've grown up in homes where Dad threw the Vicente Fernandez records on after Elvis - the little touches of sweetly soulful Mexican country music make their rock & roll - DEBBY MILLER

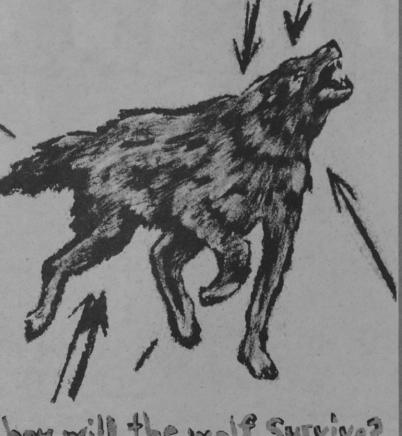
"This is a good album to dance to, wake up to, get drunk to, eat dinner to, v dishes to and drive around listening to. It is not a good album to study to or try to sleep through . . . a record that's hot, sweet and cool, like

jalapeno ice cream." The Los Angeles Times

... this critically acclaimed Chicano dance band from East Los Angeles sounds like the complete history of American rock & roll smothered in Mexican hot sauce. Their blues pack the gale force of a Latin Zeppelin; their rockabilly roars like a panzer division of low-riding '57 Chevys.''

Rolling Stone Magazine

# Why Don't You Own The New Album By Los Lobos?



now will the wolf Survive? Best New Artist: Rolling Stone Critics' Poll

Band Of The Year: Rolling Stone Critics' Poll Artist Of The Year: 3rd Place, Rolling Stone Critics' Poll Top 3 Albums Of 1984: New York Times and Los Angeles Times

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APRIL 18

The Chills Balclutha Narcs Windsor Park

Willie Royal Windsor ? Fog & Maggotty Anne and the Cot Death Babies

Terminus Yes call it a day after 13 years, 1981.

18,19,20 Circus Block 4, Wayward Witches Gladstone Fat 'n' Sassy Napier

FRI.

The Chills Invercargill Narcs Waikato Uni Maiden China Windsor Alan Price born 1942. SAT.

The Chills Invercargill Narcs Mt Maunganui Maiden China Windsor

SUN.

Wastrels' recording party

Scorched Earth Policy,

McGoohans Carlisle St

Rolling Stones meet for the first time at a Stones gig, 1963. Iggy is born, 1947.

Hall, ChCh The Beatles and the



Iron Maiden tour in May.

22 Narcs Bellblock

John Lennon officially

changes his middle name from Winston to Ono in a

ceremony on the rooftop of Apple HQ, 1969.

23 Narcs Massey Uni Roy Orbison born, 1936, in

TAKE IN A CORUBA AT THE 'GLOBE'

Circus Block 4 Old Mill Peking Man Hamilton Narcs Wanganui Chills Ashburton Fat 'n' Sassy Waipukurau 25

No-nukes gig (Chills) Peking Man Napier Minit Men Blenheim

Narcs Victoria Uni Jim Morrison's widow,

26 Chills Greymouth Fat 'n' Sassy Palmerston Southern Front, Say Yes
To Apes Gladstone
Circus Block 4 Cook
Minit Men Nelson

Narcs Hastings Peking Man Hawera Rod Stewart is mugged and robbed of his \$50,000 Porsche by a gunman in broad daylight in Hollywood, 1982.

Car Crash Set Windsor Car Crash Set Windsol
Chills Takaka
Fat 'n' Sassy Palmerston Nth
Southern Front, Say Yes
To Apes Gladstone
Minit Men Nelson
Peking Man Hawera
Narcs Gisborne
1976: David Bowies
collection of Nazi books

collection of Nazi books confiscated by guards on the Russia-Poland border. Bowie tells customs officials that Britain would benefit from a fascist

Peking Man New Plymouth

29 Hello Sailor Windsor Park Hoi Polloi on ZM Band Aid,

midnight.
Frankie Lymon dies of a heroin overdose, 1968.

Hello Sailor Hillcrest



MAY 1

Hello Sallor Bellblock Comedy Windsor Expendables, This Kind of Punishment Ashburton Fat 'n' Sassy Pahiatua Rita Coolidge born, Nashville, Tennesse, 1945.

Expendables, This Kind of Punishment Timaru Last Man Down Performance Cafe Hello Sailor Palmerston

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CORUBA AT THE TERMINUS

Builders Windsor Expendables, This Kind of Punishment Gladstone Minit Men Greymouth Hello Sailor Victoria Uni Fat 'n' Sassy Cricketers James Brown is born, 1928

This Kind of Punishment, Expendables Gladstone Hello Sailor Massey Uni Minit Men Greymouth Fat 'n' Sassy Cricketers

Hello Sailor Wellington Club' Creedence's 'Bad Moon Rising' released, 1969.

MAKE UP A CORUBA COCKTAIL BEFORE THE SHOW.

6 Hello Sailor Napier Paul Simon begins his first concert tour without Art Garfunkel, 1973.

CORUBA

This Kind of Punishment, Expendables Oriental Hello Sailor Gisborne Stones release 'Exile on Main Street', 1972.

**Expendables, This Kind of** Punishment Oriental Hello Sailor Mt Maunganui Gary Glitter is born Paul Gadd, 1944.

Nik Kershaw Auckland

Brian Eno (1948) and Mike Oldfield (1953) share a

**Dance Exponents** 

Comedy Windsor

This Kind of Punishment, Expendables Gladstone Hello Sailor Whangarei Peking Man Windsor Park ? Fog & Maggotty Anne and the Cot Death Babies

Otago Uni The Beatles sign their first contract with EMI, 1962.

9,10,11 Fat 'n' Sassy Lower Hutt 10

Chills Windsor Dance Exponents Tauranga Verlaines Gladstone
Peking Man Windsor Park
Hello Sailor Auckland
? Fog & Maggotty Anne Otago Uni Sid Vicious born John Beverley, 1957.

Chills Windsor Verlaines Gladstone Dance Exponents Hamilton Hello Sailor Metropole Eric Burdon born, 1941.

Iron Maiden Palmerston **Dance Exponents** Whangarei Hello Sailor Forge

Auckland Acoustics .
Recording Benefit
Freemans Bay Community
Centre

**Dance Exponents** Nelson

AT DE BOETTS Nik Kershaw Christchurch Dance Exponents

Auckland Politicians on ZM Band

14

Iron Maiden Christchurch Nik Kershaw Wellington Dance Exponents Hastings is electrocuted at his West London home while turning on his electric guitar, 1976.

ron Maiden

Iron Maiden Auckland No Idea Windsor Johnnys Timaru Y S

DELUXE

Johnnys Christchurch
Dance Exponents Palmerston North Verlaines Windsor 1975: Mick Jagger is hospitalised with a gash requiring 20 stitches after he smashes his fist through a plate glass window at a Long Island restaurant.

Johnnys Christchurch Verlaines Windsor

16,17,18 Peking Man New Plymouth Fat 'n' Sassy Palmerston Dance Exponents

19

Look out for ..

Iron Maiden and Nik Kershaw make strange bedfellows in this month's calendar. They each play several dates the Johnnys bring their cowboy boots and stetsons across the Tasman with the aim of kickin' up a ruckus.

Dance Exponents a major concert tour to promote their new album, Expectations ... Hello Sailor have reformed and will no doubt be looking to pack 'em in on their North Island tour ... the

**Expendables** and This Kind Of Punishment team up and share a drummer for their South Island tour, which includes Ahsburton and Timaru ... the Narcs undertake a North Island tour, playing several university dates ... Circus Block 4 go south ... the Verlaines and Builders both venture to Auckland to record and play live Anne and the Cot Death Babies and? Fog go as far south as Dunedin. A variety of acoustic performers, in-

15

cluding Wayne Gillespie, Acoustic Confusion and Chris Thompson appear at a special concert at the Freeman's Bay Community Centre on May 12, to raise money to make a record of Auckland acoustic performers ... the Chills and others play an anti-nuclear gig on April 25 (Anzac Day) at ChCh's Gladstone ... and don't forget, the organisers of this year's music video contest must be notified of intention to enter by April 19.

Coming Up ..

New Order have been confirmed for Auckland's Logan Campbell Centre for May 23 ... the night, before, at the Christchurch Town Hall, The Punch, Peking Man, Katango and Grey Parade play the first Shazam concert of the year. Tickets are \$6.50 and will be available from the Town Hall from May ... the Stranglers will be in Australia within the next few months and it seems likely someone will bring them over here.

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**Phil Collins** No Jacket Required

Warners
I don't know why, but calling this a good album seems like an insult to Phil Collins. From a position of love and respect, I want to be able to write that the new LP is the best ever; better than his two previous solo efforts or anything (post Gabriel) Genesis has done. But it isn't ... and I can't. No big deal. What is only good for this man far surpasses most other musicians'

The opening cut, 'Sussido,' sets the mood of the album; rhythmic, upfront vocals and the horns splashing phrases throughout. change of pace arrives with 'long Long Way to Go,' a gem in the tradition of 'In the Air Tonight'. I've found myself coming back again

and again to absorb its haunting power, bathe in its sparse arrangement and feel a spinal tingle when Sting joins Collins for the tasteful Sting Joins Collins for the tasterur harmonic chorus. The next track, 'I Don't Wanna Know,' drags us back to reality with its driving drums, as rock solid as Blackpool, and ringing guitar outro. Side one concludes with 'One More Night' and it's a heartiful hallad that and it's a beautiful ballad that builds slowly to a sax solo supreme that glides in and out of the melody. El primo Phil Collins.

Side two is where the album starts to fall down as an air of similarity starts to creep in. Might well be rock for middle aged critics but I'll take this LP with its one hot side in exchange for most of your art rock experiments that don't come off.

Simon Elton

#### **David Johansen Sweet Revenge**

Enough has been written about and accredited to the New York Dolls' brief lifespan in the 70s. Johansen was lead singer, a kid (well, he was in his mid-20s at the time) from Staten Island with lips as rubbery as Jagger's and an R&B

background to match.
Advancing the cause of rhythm and blues was probably low on the priority list for the Dolls as their shock tactics were aimed primarily at blitzing the pomp and complacency of a rock scene that had slowed to a standstill. In Johansen they just happened to have a singer who wanted to sing like Levi



In his solo career of five albums (this is five) Johansen may have kicked off the platform shoes, dropped the glitter pants and substituted professional polish for the glam thrash of the Dolls, but essentially he's retained the noshit belief in energy and fun. And Levi Stubbs.

On the slick, chunky and irresistible Sweet Revenge this is borne out in songs like 'Heard the News,' 'Big Trouble' and the heavy partyin' 'Too Many Midnights' On 'I Ain't Workin' Anymore' he gets serious and on the moving ballad 'In My Own Time,' real serious. 'The Stinkin' Rich' decries the chasm between rich and poor using a 'Ghostbuster' type chorus to point the finger and for a finale 'N.Y. Doll' gets all dramatic.

Nuthin' flash here, just a guy who's stayed in touch with his roots, and a bunch of songs that are as honest as they are enjoyable. George Kay

#### Japan **Exorcising Ghosts**

Virgin

Like a polaroid, Japan's music now seems to hang in time and space. Divorced from the style that added affectation, David Syl-vian's retrospective compilation of his band's "best" work can be

assessed on its merits.

To be sure Japan had something. Songs like 'A Foreign Place' and 'Night Porter' breathe atmosphere. They are will o' the wisps framed by fragile melodies and a sense of quiet adventure. The oriental fixation captured on 'Visions of China' also holds appeal But when Japan try to experience. peal. But when Japan try to experiment with percussion and rhythm, as on 'Talking Drum' or the 'Art Of Parties', they fall flat on their pretty painted noses. Their efforts are too stiff; contrivances without lilt, swing or punch.

As was to be expected, Exorcis-ing Ghosts draws heavily on Gentlemen Take Polaroids and Tin Drum. Only 'Quiet Life' is repeated from the Assemblage compilation and regrettably Japan's chilling rendition of Smokey Robinson's 'I Second That Emotion' is omitted.

Sumptuously packaged with lyric sheet (covering four albums' songs) and impressionistic artwork, Exorcising Ghosts sums up Japan's contribution to popular music. "Everything's neat and compact, there's not much to

**David Taylor** 

#### **Fenton Robinson** Nightflight Son Seals **Bad Axe** James Cotton **High Compression**

Alligator Records of Chicago can take credit for reviving the moribund blues recording scene in the 1970s. I for one am eternally grateful. The label's sympathetic approach to its artists has been rewarded with some exceptional

recordings.

Best of its latest releases is Nightflight, an album by guitarist

Fenton Robinson, best known for 'Somebody Loan Me A Dime'. Robinson had two previous albums on Alligator, but his mellow singing and jazzy guitar improvisa-tions have yet to be accorded their due. Robinson's stunningly inven-tive guitar floats in and out and over the persistently prodding

accompaniment.
Where Robinson insinuates, Son Seals' guitar style is darkly brutal, although he has refined his attack since he first burst on the scene, ready to hit first and talk scene, ready to hit first and talk later. The right-between-the-eyes menace and no let-up rhythm reflect his time as a drummer (Albert King, Live At the Fillmore, Live Wire/Blues Power, Stax). It's not all bone crushing on Bad Axe, however. 'I Can Count On My Blues' is an unexpected ballad, with touches of Otis Rush's version of 'Rainy Night in Georgia'

with touches of Otis Rush's version of 'Rainy Night in Georgia'.

James Cotton, who was playing with Howlin' Wolf around West Memphis when barely out of short pants, was a mainstay of the Muddy Waters band for a decade, then a popular, post-psychedelic rock-blues act. His best is very good — most notably 'Cotton Crop Blues' for Sam Phillips at Sun in 1953 — but he has often been show, and the music approximate. showy and the music anonymous-ly funky. *High Compression* reflects Cotton's problem (or personality, depends on your perspective). Not unexpectedly, the best sees Cotton blowing harp in the company of the Chicago Blues All-Stars, especially Magic Slim on guitar and Pinetop Perkins on piago. But the album is divide on piano. But the album is divid-ed equally with Cotton's touring band. The performances are not

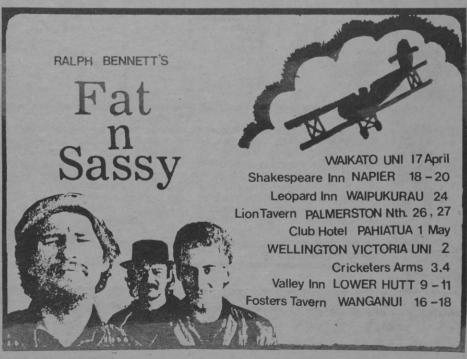
in the same class.
Alligator Records' mailing address is Box 60-234, Chicago, Illinois, 60660, USA.





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Ry Cooder
Paris, Texas (Warner Bros)
Wim Wenders, director of the haunting film Paris, Texas, said in a recent interview that Ry Cooder had told him he believed his (Cooder's) future lay in film sound-tracks and he had virtually given up live performances. A blow to those of us who have been uplifted by the man. Paris, Texas allows Cooder and fellow musicians David Lindley and Jim Dickinson to make aural magic with a mixture of Mexican border with a mixture of Mexican border music, featuring a vocal by the glorious Harry Dean Stanton, and the mysterious bottleneck sounds which culminate in the majestic version of 'Dark Was The Night', which is associated with the Texas religious singer Blind Willie Johnson. Johnson recorded in the 1920s and much of his work has entered the blues-rock repertoire.

George Thorogood KW
and the Destroyers
Maverick (EMI America)
Purists, being purists, neglect
the role of George Thorogood in
helping kickstart the stalled blues scene. But the infectious frenzy of that first adrenalin rush was George's peak, and he manages to stay more or less at that point. It's all flat-out music for the feet, virtuosity out of the question, a party in the promise. Thorogood's music is for having fun to, and he shows a sense of humour in the choice of the title track, a deadpan version of the theme to James

version of the theme to James Garner's classic television series. Various Artists KW The Great British Rock Invasion (RCA)
I don't believe it, but someone has put together, tastefully, a triple album of British artists from 1963 though to the 80s. From the effervescent (the Beatles' I Want To Hold Your Hand) to the melanchofervescent (the Beatles' 'I Want To Hold Your Hand') to the melancholy (Fleetwood Mac's 'Man of the World'), every one of the 52 tracks is a gem. 'Maggie May', 'Something In the Air', 'Sultans of Swing, 'Black Night' ... all classics. The Yardbirds, Small Faces, the Jam, Hendrix, Boomtown rats, Cream ... "Certainly is the Best Of British, old chap!" SGE Neil Young

Greatest Hits (Reprise)
This 11-track compilation has been released by Young's old label (his best work, however) to coincide with the touring schedule of the artist. Commercialism aside, it's a fine collection. Of course, it's fun to programme your possible alternatives, but here we have 'Cinnamon Girl', 'Old Man, 'Comes A Time,' Walk On, 'The Loner,' 'Like A Hurricane', 'Heart Of Gold', 'Southern Man,' 'Down By The River,' 'Southern Pacific' and 'Hey May My The epic Operade col-Hey, My My'. The epic *Decade* collection eclipses *Greatest Hits*, but this is a commendable introduction. KW

Julian Cope World Shut Your Mouth

(Mercury) A dull rock record littered with pseudo psychedelic touches that are more wet than whimsical. Cope's first album since the demise of the overrated Teardrop Explodes and this isn't even a singer looking for a band ... if Cope's vocals were any more strangled he'd be dead. I hear his latest is called *Fried*, which possibly relates to the condition of his brain. Anyone who comes up with lines like "If I were France and you were Germany / What an alliance that would be," has gotta have somewhere. SPC

The Angels
Two Minute Warning
(Mushroom)

Jimmy Barnes' move to the Mushroom label signalled for him a new lease of life but unfortunate-ly the same can't be said for rock veteran the Angels. At their best (No Exit, Face To Face) the Angels (No Exit, Face to Face) the Angels competed with Cold Chisel and Midnight Oil for the Australian rock 'n' roll crown. Night Attack and Watch the Red, the last two albums, were mediocre by comparison and Two Minute Warning does nothing to arrest the decline. The problem is that it merely repeats the old riffs we have all come to know. How can you resur-rect 'Marseilles'? 'Babylon', which borrows heavily from the past, is the best track, but the lasting im-pression is that the band have seen better days. DP Triumph, Thunder Seven (MCA)

It's about time this band received a larger slice of the metal consumer attention in Enzed that the quality of their last half dozen albums warrants. There are few bands this consistent class operating in the heavy metal arena. 'Thunder Seven' easily maintains the exhilirating blend of instrumental virtuosity, melody and power that has become this handle trademark. Face of Purple bands trademark. Fans of Rush and Led Zeppelin should find ins-tant satisfaction here for starters, though anyone remotely interested in heavy metal should check it out pronto.



Temptations Treat Her Like A Lady (Motown)

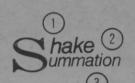
One of my favourites for the last six months, and the best thing on Motown since the last Smokey album. Smooth, sophisticated groove, both joyous and infectious, it doesn't wane, no matter how much I hear it. I can't for the life of me understand why Murray doesn't go for it. **Matt Bianco** 

Half A Minute (WEA) 12" New heirs to the boutique throne, Matt Bianco are by now making themselves very popular at all the best soirces. Clever latin influences tinged with a pop sen-sibility give them a hea start on today's serious young men. A hit right across the board.

Dazz Band
Let It All Blow (Gordy) 12"
One of the strongest intros of the year never really seems to get past being an intro on this b-b-beat bonanza. An underdeveloped idea means that this good song misses out on a chance of greatness and 'Let It Whip' remains their pinnacle. The Power Station Some Like It Hot (Parlophone)

As a big fan of both Robert Palmer and Bernard Edwards, it worries me that they should want to work with anyone called Taylor. Still, the Durannie boys have pro-bably made the best record of their career, despite some awful

guitar from Andy. A huge hit of Mark Phillips



**DD Smash** 

(Mushroom)
To these ears, 'Whaling' was dreary, 'Magic' was absolutely sparkling pop, and 'She Loves Me Back' falls somewhere between the two. Dave can't quite hit the silky groove of the Luther Vansliky groove of the Euther variance or soriginal (nor should he even try), but he gets another chance to strut his singing stuff and everybody sounds like they're having a good time — as a matter of fact, there's a real party feel to it. The flip, 'Wot A Day', has standard Dobbyn quirks, but maybe you have to wait a little bit long for the

Dance Exponents
My Love For You (Mushroom)

The most lightweight track from the Exponents' forthcoming album and the one on which they sound most like U2. Things wouldn't be too bad however, if the local record company hadn't seen fit to chop the song down to 2 min 29 sec — the structure goes out 29 sec — the structure goes out the window and it sounds like a long ad. The flip, 'Ashened, Ashen-ed, Autumn Leaves' is a lot more like it, with Jordan displaying his ability to place words well over music and Chris Sheehan whipping up a nice guitar line. The noisy workout it ends with probably warrants a Frecommendation. Play Loud

Herbs Nuclear Waste (Warrior)

Wow ... heavy shit ... nuclear ex-plosions and a kick drum that sounds several metres high are just a couple of the tricks in this remix. The song itself, with its nag-ging guitar line, still manages to sound celebratory while talking about the threat of nuclear destruction and that's something in itself. The dub does go on a lit-tle bit long, though — or perhaps the record should come with a free spliff.

This Times Square (Ode)
This band sprang from two old lineups, Skin Dynamics and Stiff Richards — and unfortunately, *old* is the way it tends to sound. None of it's bad, but the familiar-sounding power poppish ap-proach only really comes together on the more involved closing track 'I Am the Truth'. The songs do, however, give the impression that they'd sound better live. We'll have to wait and see.
Step Chant Unit

Painting Pictures (Jayrem)
A pretty ordinary synth song with patented Waikato guitar and lines like "Televisions of my mind." It might sound better given a massive production, but ... The Game' is texturally a bit harder but, driven by an awfully dumb synth riff, lacks even the subtlety of the

Radio Active
Loving You (Ode)
Sounds like someone's been listening to Seventeen Seconds. There is the odd good idea here and it's best when there's no sing-ing going on, but it all goes to waste on such a bloody dull song. The B-side is something stupid about "shock treatment and mind control."

Russell Brown

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'RUMOURS' FROM PAGE 4 PRIMOURS' FROM PAGE 4
pected soon is an Onset-Offset
EP featuring the Bottletops on
one side and Toerag on tother ...
No Idea planning a national tour
... new in town are the Bohemians

Naughty Thoughts continue to show promise and recently did a Thursday night at the Gladdy with another Timaru band the Never Never, who count RIU and Shake! photographer Colin Bower amongst their number.

White soul project **These Bad Strings** have recorded their debut single 'Sizzlin',' with 'River Deep, Mountain High' ... **Dick** Driver recently left the country to work for his uncle in Malawi.

Alister Cain

#### Auckland

Mushroom Records NZ will continue despite the (amicable) departure of **Mike Chunn**, but will now be run out of the Festival Records office ... busy times at Progressive Studios, with EPs in the pipeline from Able Tasmans and Diatribe, Ivan Zagni and Steve Garden working on a cou-ple of film scores as well as their own album, an LP just completed by Last Man Down and Mike Farrell and Guy Wishart doing solo LPs. Recently completed have been a Not Really Anything EP and a Jay Clarkson solo record. The **Builders** are expected to pop in and record a couple of songs while they're in town to play (new

LP CoNCH3 just released, distributed by Flying Nun) ... new phone no. at **The Lab** is 602-462. Recently recorded have been an EP by Dunedin's Look Blue Go Purple, Marie and the Atom and a **Stonehenge** four-track EP. The studio will soon be closed for six weeks while Lab goes to the UK on a gear hunting search and to see his Mum.

The next Chills single will be Oncoming Day. It and other toons (including a couple of recently remixed songs from the Dunedin double EP) will go on a mini-album to be released in Britain (and here as well!) to coincide with their visit there in July. Germany is also doing 'Pink

Frost' as a 12". There's a possibili ty they'll do a live performance based on their successful live Campus Radio show *The Chills In Space* at some point ... Dunedin's loveable **Doublehappys** borrowed a bit of gear from the Chills and snuck into Radio One to record five songs, 'Needles and Plastic', 'Nerves', 'Moss Monster', 'Some Fantasy' and 'I Don't Wanna See You Again' ... Aucklander **Nat Cur-no** will have a single released by F Nun; features synth playing by Mick Raye of the Table Committee

Committee.

RIU's glossier relative, Shake!, has its own crack soccer team which has thus far repelled all challenges with almost disdainful ease. Squad is: Damien Holt (Moving Barricades), Adam Holt (Sons In Jeopardy), David Gent (Dance Exponents), Tony Drumm (Meemees), Mike Harrilambi (Grave), Eddie, Diebard (Grave) Parade), Eddie Diehard (Grey Parade), Paul Eversden (Katango), Paul Majsa (Sons in Jeopardy) Wayne Flintham (Sons in Jeopar dy), Karl Robinson (Katango), Terry Towelling (Rebel Truce) and Pat Brunten (all-round good guy) ... and in case you haven't noticed, Mainstreet is no longer with The Chase Corporation's demolition men moved in this

Low Profile are remixing 'Elephunk' for overseas release. Meanwhile Phil Bowering leaves for England early in May. He's hop-ing to join up with other musicians there and pursue his Mov Lines musical theme Gloria's Peccadilloes have been busily recording a four song EP at Montage Studios and have done a video for *Shazam*. Leila Andrews has joined the band on keyboards Goblin Mix are to do a single

very soon.
Things should be looking up on

the Whangarei entertainment front with the establishment of the Goodtimes Promotion Company, who will be organising regular venues and parties for the local folk. Any bands interested in playing can contact them at PO Box 888 Whangarei or ph 88-912 ... after a week-long stint with Dr

Feelgood the **Crew** went into Last Laugh to do some recording with Martin Williams at the controls a new feature on the ZM network will be Band Aid, not a fund raiser, but a chance for bands with demos but no record deals to get some exposure. The half hour show will take place at midnight every two weeks. Scheduled so far are Hoi Polloi (April 29), Politicians (May 13), Last Man Down (27) and the Wait (June 10).

Tracy and the Coldstep is an Auckland music/theatre group presently booking a two month presently booking a two month tour thru the country's pubs, prisons, galleries, and universities. Lineup at present is Bruce Davis-Goff (vocals/dance/saxophone), Roy Martyn (guitar/synth/vocals), Phil and Gareth (bass and drums) and Bruce Naylor (dance) atthough Bruce Naylor (dance), although others will be added soon. One song has been recorded for a

#### Russell Brown

#### **Palmerston North**

Great news for Palmerston North is the formation of a local record label, *Meltdown Records*. Initial funding comes from the re-cent Battle of the Bands held at Massey Uni. Spokesman Peter Sheppard informs that first recor-dings will be the **Mannequins**, the Remarkables and Dosage B ... Radio Massey, 92FM, is half way through its longest broadcast yet. All concerts held at the Uni will be

newish vehicle for the more alter-**Manelitos Mexican Restaurant** soon to visit PN and not to be missed are Sneaky Feelings Massey Orientation went extremely well, strong support for all events. Orientation organisers due D.W.L. Reid

#### Wellington

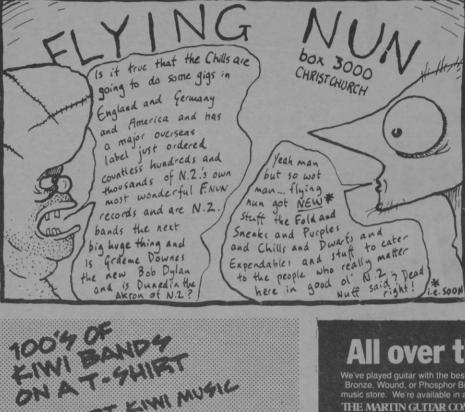
Vietnam are active again and release a five track EP next month ... Steve Wilson's new band is

Violet Summer (not Violent Summer as reported last month). It comprises Mr Wilson and Leo Kean (ex Steroids and Gale Force and the Cyclones) and has "absolutely nothing to do with the Legionnaires". Their record 'The Morning , After' should be available as you read this ... local reggae outfit Aotearoa release a 12" circle in carth Maria at the carthain and th 12" single in early May ... other vinyl from local acts out now includes Rodger Fox/Midge Marsden collaboration Let the Good Times Roll. The new Spines album does not have a title like a Cars song. It's called *The Moon*. **David Taylor** 

#### Dunedin

The age of chivalry is not dead:

The age of crivialry is not dead; the **Rip** won a recent Chingford Park live competition but gave the free recording time to the **Orange** ... the Rip's **Alistair Galbraith** plays violin on the new **Bats** six-to-nine song EP ... the new **Sneaky Feelings** single will have herps and strings ... the **Rip** are horns and strings ... the Rip are scheduled to record an album, the Rip are probably in Christchurch ... Luke Hurley has recorded and taped a band version of 'Japanese Over-drive' ... Graeme McLauchlan has left the End, so they're looking for a new drummer.



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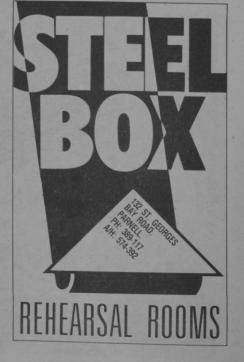






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#### Tall Dwarfs, Birdsnest Roys Windsor, April 6.

I'll try and be brief, for once. I talked to Ross, the singer from Birdnest Roys, afterwards: "Since last week all we've had is people last week all weve had is people telling us how good we are," he shrugged, pleased but a little bemused. And, indeed, the Roys once again won over an entire (packed) pubful and people said aren't this band good and danced and smiled and that sort of thing. The only trick for these six now is a world letting all this praise go to to avoid letting all this praise go to their heads. I think they'll get by.

"I don't know about you but we're determined to have a good time," Chris Knox told the crowd.

And he had evil circles painted around his eyes and wore an old chopped-up, paint-splattered suit coat that still bore stains from sweat extracted during legendary performances from Toy Love or maybe even the Enemy. And the Tail Dwarfs sounded more like Toy Love or maybe even the Enemy than they ever have before

than they ever have before.

It was special because it was the last Tall Dwarfs performance for the forseeable future, as Ale Bathgate is going to England. It was also special because the performers and the audience made it

Before such an audience the Tall Dwarfs could virtually have done no wrong but rather than settle for a trot-through of Greatest Hits they twisted and tortured familiar songs until, at times, they were almost unrecognisable. I don't know how many people were

listening to the words but Knox was in fearsome ad-lib form.

No small factor in the chemistry

was the head-down longhair drumming of Mike Dooley. He too seemed to be playing for all he was worth. Among the highlights were a penetrating 'She's A Woman' and the newie 'Get Outta the Garage.

I don't know if the perfor-

mance's pacing was as measured as it seemed but the whole thing hit a peak with the 10 minute-plus closer, a version of 'Crush' with the aid on percussion and guitar of three of This Kind Of Punishment. The song soon left the original riff behind and careered through a path that seemed to sum up most of the things Tall Dwarfs have done. It was kind of a shame that most of the audience couldn't see the onstage fervour through the gauze curtain that fell for the last

song - I got the impression they'd all have been smiling if they hadn't had their teeth clenched trying to keep up. On the other hand, the opaque screen went hand in hand with the blitz of white noise that came outta the PA. The murals

came outta the PA. The murals were neat too:
So, when it was all over and Chris handed the big drum down to the dancers in front, it had been a fine. farewell for a really remarkable guitarist — and he certainly played for all he was worth. If it had've been seven or eight years ago maybe something would've been smashed, but as it would've been smashed, but as it was there was no need. Things really are looking up.
Russell Brown

#### Circus Block 4, EVT **Fear Of Extinction**

Majestic Theatre, March 30.

The old Majestic Theatre, stripped of its pews, but with the high vaulted ceiling and art nouveau decoration intact, is an impressive venue. Unfortunately, few were at-tracted there by the 'Ten Foot Fear of the Circus Parade'. The allure of Bill Direen and the Chills elsewhere in the city proved too much for most punters.

EVT (Experiments in Vertical Takeoff) opened. A rather muddy sound and songs that perhaps

contained too many ideas robbed this five-piece of major impact. Fear of Extinction followed with

their brand of 80s pop. On occasion a song would be transported by a powerful, surging bass line. One instrumental in particular put me in mind of the mood evoked by the Joy Division singles. Often, however, songs would begin well then crash along to a guitar motif. Nothing that further experience

won't remedy.
Circus Block 4's performance was assured, crowned by effective lighting and their flame-belching clown accomplice. The recorded works have greater impact on stage with rhythms and percus-sion playing off each other. The finest moment was an instrumental ('Brine'?) with a theme which looped teasingly around shards of guitar and busy percussion.

I was driven away before Ten Foot Faces by the poorly mixed sound and a certain amount of fatigue. In concept the show had been immaculate. In fact it presented four bands with an oportunity to play to a small but portunity to play to a small but varied and fairly appreciative audience.

**David Taylor** 

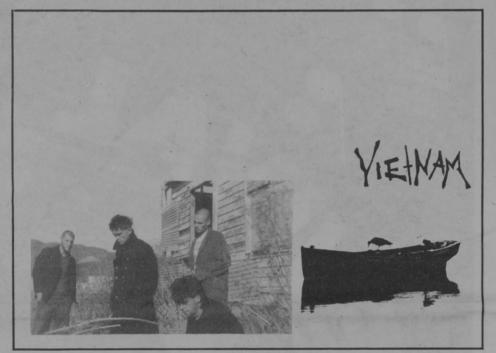
Right Left and Centre, Able Tasmans, Eric Glandy Band, Diatribe, Birdsnest Roys, Goblin Mix, Otis Mace and the New Society Band

Mainly at the Windsor Castle, March 29, 30.

It was a heartwarming sight, the Aotea Square stage. After a stop-start march up Queen St, street theatre, the obligatory speeches and a very moving poem, it was time for a semblance of Right Left. and Centre to shamble onstage and add another voice to the even-ing's anti-tour protest. The tiny structure must have groaned beneath the weight of the musicians, the pickup backing chorus, the officials and speechmakers and everyone's children. 'Don't Go' was pretty neat, as much as a result of the shambles and lack of a "proport" hand as another shambles. a "proper" band as anything else. Full marks to C. Knox for having the good sense to clown around a bit

No marks at all to the organiser who sternly told the crowd that: "This isn't a celebration. It's a protest," after the applause for the first musical turn. After everyone had taken the trouble to simply be CONTINUED ON PAGE 32







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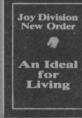
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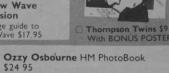
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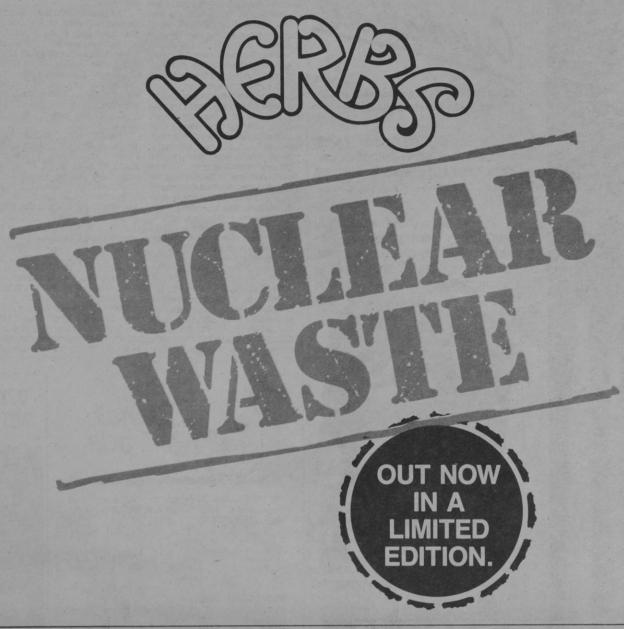


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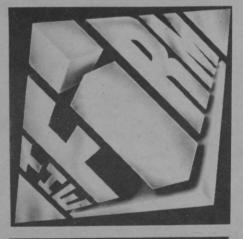
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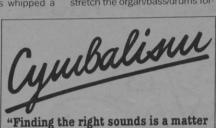
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Radio (91.8FM, STU1!) evening and the Able Tasmans. Playing last at a gig for the second time in their career, the Tasmans whipped a

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mat and the logical progression would be the addition of a restrainwould be the addition of a restrained rhythm guitar (with wah-wahl) to free up Graeme's keyboard playing. But the important thing was that the band, given the chance, showed the ability to break from the support band mentality that has been the unfortunate lot of some very good Auckland groups over the past year. It's important, and the Tasmans weren't the only and the Tasmans weren't the only group of the weekend to evidence

group of the weekend to evidence changes in the way the locals are approaching themselves.

Saturday afternoon saw a select crowd witness a typically moving testament from the Eric Glandy Band. Glandy, God-fearing man that he is, has gathered about him a flock of former convicts, layabouts, loose women and general reprobates, and helped them discover in themselves the efft of music. As each member of gift of music. As each member of the band unfolded his or her story it was tempting to wonder if the luminescence that flooded the stage was something *more* than the product of afternoon sunlight and a brace of par cans. As the reverend Mr Glandy himself told the assembled listeners: "This band is held together by LUUURRRRVVVE."

Next up were the new-look Diatribe. Like the earlier versions of the band, this lineup can't be faulted on sincerity but the product of the stageful of musicians playing up, down and around each other is still something without a

real edge. Individual good moments aren't given room to breathe and you end up with a whole that's neither particularly good *nor* bad. Still, there are worse ways to spend a Saturday afternoon

The matinee session was concluded by Right, Left and Centre, this time with pretty much the this time with pretty much the studio lineup and without the kids. They played a pretty good 'Don't Go, a neat "You've Got To Move,' Cecil' and a second, better, "extended mix" of 'Don't Go.' Fun and functional, but I think my favourite memories of Right Left and Center's brief the descreen will lise. tre's brief live career will lie at

Aotea Square. Aotea Square.
First to open the Windsor's night session were Birdsnest Roys, who I hadn't seen before (I think the name scared me off). Birdsnest Roys really were very good. They displayed the rare talent to not only be able to write good, fun, interesting choons, but to play them properly as well. Arranging isn't a properly as well. Arranging isn't a discipline that comes easy to inexperienced bands, but the Roys seem to have it together, from the vocal harmonies to the twin guitar parts and sympathetic basslines. Honorable mentions also for some delicious guitar sounds and the sheer variety of songs.

Goblin Mix were playing only their second gig with David Mixhell second by the second s

chell on wild guitar and they are clearly still in a period of transition but the indications were already there that in three or four months this will be a remarkable band. But this night there was enough in songs like the sombre 'Hello, Goodbye, 'Water' and the let-loose, guaranteed-laconic-free 'Laugh At the Darkness' to move anyone who took the trouble to listen.

The New Society Band has been been good for Otis Mace—no doubt about it. As a solo performer Otis had been nearing the point of self-parody, but teaming up with two quirky, inquisitive musicians in Bevan Sweeney and Dave Major (with tastefully sparse injections on saxophone from Gavin). 'Twixt the former's relentlessly busy drumming, the latter's curly basslines and Otis' bent guitaring lies the basis of something unique. But this is another band which should keep getting better the longer it plays as a band. The chief improvement will, I suspect, be in the vocal department — playing with other musicians seems to have taken a lot of the projection out of Otis's voice. A shame given some of the curious lyric content.

All of the above might sound like a rave — and it is, in a way. But it's important for both bands and au-diences in Auckland to steer clear of the-only-place-where-anything-is-really-happening-is-Dunedin syndrome. Some of these bands (and others given the opportunity by Campus Radio, like the Fold) are really happening — they just need to be taken seriously.

**Russell Brown** 



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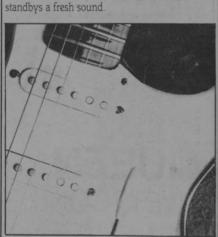
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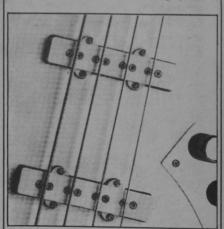


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'EXPONENTS' FROM PAGE 16 Salik came along you'd just go out the door in whatever you happened to be wearing and that was it for

Jordan: "What I hope is that the clips themselves are more distinctive than what the band are actual ly wearing, or what pretensions people seem to think the images

should be, because the clips are so distinct that I hope that is what comes across, not what you're wearing or what our haircuts are, or

Would you use lan Taylor as a record producer again, given the

Dave: "Hopefully we will keep

moving forward all the time and for us, recording overseas is definitely the next step

Jordan: "The next one has to be something that you know you're going to be happy with. And obviously if we did something with lan again, we'd have to change. Ian was not happy, but that's why I think he's a great producer, because to get

what he got out of Mandrill, when a lot of people would have just walk-

ed away, was fantastic."
Chris: "The thing is when you're producing you want to try and keep your standard. You'd never want to do anything that's not as good as the last thing you've done. So when he gets thrown into a demo studio, in a sense, for him normally, and he's got to do something better than the last record he did which was in England or Scotland somewhere at some big studio, that is really putting him on the spot. He has to work twice as hard."

"And that's why we really liked him, 'cause he did," adds Brian. Jordan: "I guess it's a challenge initially, but towards the last couple of weeks it was a bit tiring for him."

"Yeah," Dave agrees. "He would've just been counting down the days till when he could actually go to Australia and mix it, just to pull him through, because it was pretty hard towards the end."

He has a very distinct sound as a producer, doesn't he?

"He's got a real sound of his own," agrees Brian. "And even when you listen back to Romeo Void, which was a few years back, you can tell it's got lan Taylor on it." Jordan: "I think this album

sounds really distinctive. You know I toss up between thinking that it's really so far away from normal and then I think that it is normal. My

mind keeps changing."
Dave: "It's the type of record that you put on and you think 'Ooh, it doesn't sound very good, and then you listen to it for another 10 minutes and it sounds *really* good. It just has a different sound to other

records in a lot of ways."
"It sounds a lot less like anything else than 'Sex' did," offers Chris.

There is a possibility that 'Sex and Agriculture' will be released in France, but the record company there is just waiting to hear the album first. In any case, the album will definitely be released in Australia, followed by a tour if it has any success there.

In the meantime, however, the band will do an extensive tour of this country, starting May 10. The support acts are not completely finalised. They have yet to decide who will support them in Dunedin. Three bands who will definitely be doing some dates with them are Eddie Diehard's new band Grey Parade (who have former Exponent Mike Harrilambi on drums), South Island band the Punch and Auckland's upand-coming Birdsnest Roys — who Dance Exponents all consider

Brian reckons they will be "the next Swingers. They'll be whisked overseas and signed in America."

'Sure," doubts Dave. 'Nah, I wouldn't be surprised," in-

'Yep, they're the best," Chris

They haven't been written about

yet though, have they?
Dave: "They're not from Dunedin, that's why."

And everyone always says that nothing of any worth comes out of

Auckland ... Dave: "Well, a lot hasn't ..." (Here Jordan laughs very loudly,

an astonishing sound.) Brian: "Well, a lot as in quantity, but the quality of a band like that makes up for the last few years for me as far as anything else coming

Dave: "There are a lot of good bands in Auckland, though."

Was that some kind of hint? "It only takes one or two bands to change things, doesn't it?" says Chris. "And then it makes it easier for everyone else."

Dave: "It's a really good period right through the country at the moment. Like you've got bands like the Punch and that down south, and in

two or three years there is going to be a whole new crop of major bands in New Zealand." (Jordan says he "can't wait.")

'And Goblin Mix were the first Auckland band I'd seen in ages," Chris continues. "And I though they were just amazing."

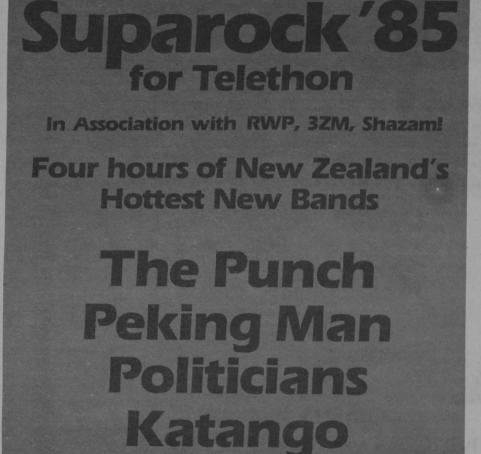
All the above is something I'd have to agree on. One just hopes there will be enough people here to witness it. Even Hunters and Collectors remarked that this country is the best place to be, and they weren't the only ones getting angry at the many whom they encountered who are blind to the vastness of talent that's blooming away here. Those who see nothing but Britain before them.

Expectations should hopefully both earn the Dance Exponents a bit of money, and a lot more credibility than they've been known to get in the past. It's an aptly named album. It contains absolutely no synth, Fairlight or computer. Chris plays piano on one track, but apart from that there's just vocals, drums, bass and two guitars.

Brian reckons he can sum it up: "Full on."

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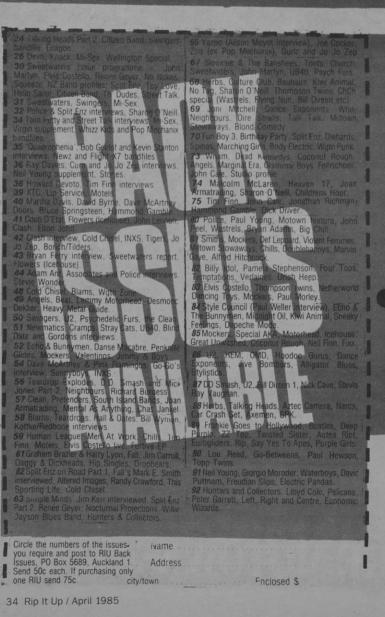
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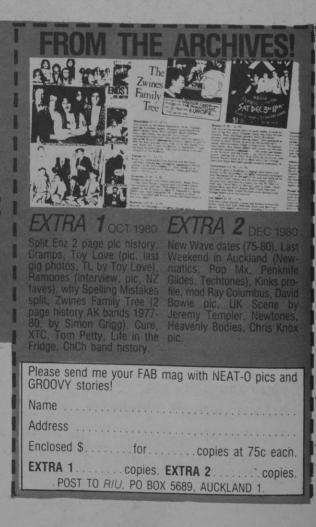


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#### PARIS, TEXAS

Director: Wim Wenders
The ill-fated Hammett was

neither a very happy nor auspicious American debut for German director Wim Wenders.

Paris Texas, free from the period and genre limitations of the earlier film, gives Wenders the scope to create a brilliant parable for our times, a movie which has justifiably been awarded the Golden Palm Award at last year's Cannes festival.

aris, Texas takes as its subject the very contemporary issue of the committment and meaning of relationships within a world that seemingly does so much to threaten such ties. The film's title gives little away and Sam Shepard's spare script has just the right degree of laconic understatement. Harry Dean Stanton is outstan of laconic

ding as the craggy, beaten-up hero who finds himself drifting back to former ties from a life of isolation in a Texas desert. Having reclaimed his son in Los Angeles, he sear-ches out his wife in Houston and, having reunited mother and the boy, he drifts off into the isolation

of a Texas right.
While aspects of Paris, Texas
catch the very essence of
Americana, such as Ry Cooder's taut soundtrack with its discreet

touches of Tex-Mex stylings, Wenders brings a very European sensibility to his subject. It would be difficult to think of a contemporary American director who could carry off the long confrontation scene between Nastassja Kinski and Stanton with such harrowing intensity or obtain such ar-obeautifully gauged performance from Hunter Carson as Stanton's son—light years away in sensitivi-ty from the cute and cloying per-formances that we get from most Hollywood juveniles.

#### PLACES IN THE HEART

Director: Robert Benton Robert Benton's new film, with its meticulously observed portrait of life in Texas during the Depression, has already won a couple of Academy Awards — one for Benton's script and a predictable Best Actress Award for Saily Field. While not questioning the essential sincerity of Benton's work (the film is based, to some degree, on the director's own childhood memories), *Places in the Heart* leaves one with a curious feeling of dissatisfaction.

Perhaps it is simply that I do not like to be so overtly and obviously manipulated, however worthy may be the social aspirations of the movie. Here is a film that strains for significance and relies far too much on contrivance to make its point.

There is something uncomfortably pat about John Malkovich's blind boarder who undergoes a transformation from "bitter and twisted war veteran" to "caring human being" and this is equally so with Denny Glover's black

sharecropper who turns from a life of petty crime and scrounging to become Sally Field's right hand man. While these stock characters are understandable within the context of what might be termed a latter-day Stanley Kramer movie, the final scene with all the characters, living and dead, assembled together in church, is

as puzzling as it is trite.

Like Field's earlier success, Norma Rae, Places in the Heart does present a "woman's point of view", but whereas Martin Ritt's film was gutsy and hard-hitting, Benton opts for sentimentality and lyrical nostalgia. *Places in the Heart* tends to register as a star vehicle for its leave. for its leading lady, but, in the final count, what I remember most are the luminescent images of Nestor

Director: Peter Hyams
2010 opened in the States at
the end of last year, but for well
over 12 months, American audiences have been prepared for
the film by an enigmatic trailer
which simply spelt out the four
numerals of the title to the strains
of Richard Strauss's Zarathustra of Richard Strauss's Zarathustra Nothing was being given away, and one suspected that the studio

orielised this film would have a difficult act to top with Kubrick's original 2001.

The key to the failure of the sequel can be seen reflected in the success of the first film: 2001 made its initial impact partly. success of the first film: 2001 made its initial impact partly through its very elusiveness and mystery, which managed to take on a profound poetic and philosophical significance and partly through its deft reflection of the ethos of the late 60s (the film was released in 1968).

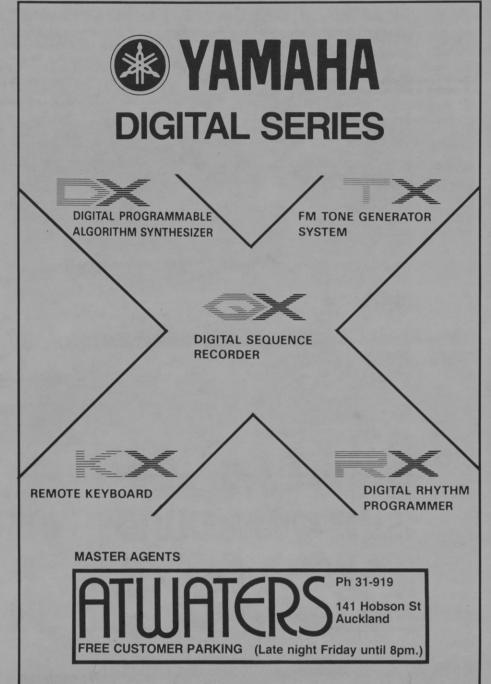
Whereas Kubrick dealt in the realms of mystery and imagination, Hyam almost explains his film out of existence. The earlier 2001 obtained more eloquence

film out of existence. The earlier 2001 obtained more eloquence from the unexpected use of a Johann Strauss waltz or an avantgarde choral work by Ligeti, than its sequel does within its pages and pages of dialogue.

2010's plea for Soviet-American co-operation is a commendable stance, although Kubrick's film tackled questions of a more universal and timeless nature.

2010 is, alas, a film that aimed at the stars but otherwise remains doggedly earthbound. doggedly earthbound. **William Dart** 

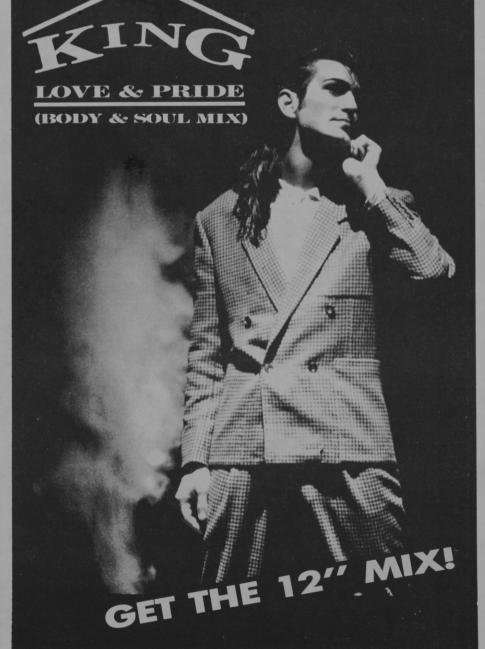
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