

# Live

## The Builders Birdsnest Roys Windsor, May 4.

The last time I saw Birdsnest Roys (with Tall Dwarfs) I wasn't as mightily impressed as those around me, but last night they presented a set that had improved to the point where they extracted yelps of appreciation from a packed Windsor. Anchored by some hard drumming and jaunty bass, the Roys' double, sometimes triple, vocal attack gives power to their sound, when, as happened on almost every song this night, the melodies and harmonies hit their mark.

The first of the Builders' two sets began shakily and they were unconvincing, only just held together by Greg Bainbridge's furious bass. Mr Direen was elsewhere until kickstarted into action for a tortured 'Look East' and a thunderous 'Sunday News'.

The second set was a vast improvement on the first. The sound had been worked out after earlier problems and the music was punched out with real force. Time



Bill Direen, Bilders, Windsor Castle.

and time again, Direen seemed vague and disinterested, unsure which songs to play next, and bass or drums would shatter his indecision by launching into a song, causing him to rise like Lazarus, wind up his guitar, hurl himself into the music and sing with both passion and humour.

This Jekyll and Hyde caper reached a zenith when he muttered something about Johnny Devlin's shoes and then proceeded to tear up whatever song it had previously been, taking the band with him.

Highlights of the set were a funky 'Alligator' and a blistering song called 'Accident', which ap-

proached pure white noise.

The impression I was left with was of Bill Direen being constantly dragged, if not kicking, then screaming into the music and firing out brilliant, manic cameos. I don't think he always matched the mammoth energy of the band, but when he did it was a peerless performance.

Hamish Coney

## This Kind of Punishment Expendables

Gladstone, May 4

I here present you, courteous reader, with the record of a night spent with This Kind of Punishment and the Expendables. I trust

that it will prove not merely interesting, but in a considerable degree, useful and instructive. In that hope, I shall begin.

Nothing, indeed, struck one more than the passivity of the crowd. It was hellishly quiet. This Kind of Punishment, as if aware of the predominant lethargy, sequestered themselves from the general mass, declining to claim fellowship with the audience. That they eventually did after several delays was to their credit. And yet they remained distant, perhaps by natural instinct, from the public. They courted privacy, daring to violate and forcibly reproach the inactivity. Their subliminal noises echoed Wire (circa *Chairs Missing*) industrialism, the minimal and the primitive, of dadaist theatre.

For the most part, TKOP, offered variation, alternating instruments amongst themselves. Yes, there were times in the set when mere spirits were uncommonly raised, the pulse was improved, the health was better, but, dear reader, they were few. Where Children's Hour and Nocturnal Projections irritated with palsy effect, TKOP resembled, if nothing more, the gloom of a distant eclipse.

I foolishly held the belief that the Expendables might chance to bring to the task the greater and more consistent energy that TKOP had maintained. Sadly, they lacked

a stronger constitution. Jay Clarkson dominates a band that has now succumbed to stasis. Only Anthony Nevison on guitar offered invigoration from such an empty drawer.

The sybaritic pleasures they once offered lay dormant. The lovely 'Take Those Cold Eyes Off Me' now sounds comfortable, the spine completely shattered. A clangorous version of 'Ghost Riders in the Sky' finished their set, but the feeling was that the once unmistakably delicate and exquisite nuances this band possessed seem lost, a flame which is now a steady and perishable glow.

S. John Townshend

## Sneaky Feelings, 27 Lost in the Cracks

Clyde Quay Tavern, March 9.

I hope I got the name of 27 Lost in the Cracks right. The 27 were actually four — guitar, bass, drums and vocals. Bass and vocals tended to run the show. Music was fairly derivative, despite an air of experimental chaos. They sounded best when they approached the Siouxsie and the Banshees sound and played around with it. But the numbers were far too short and the breaks too long.

They were different. Vocals belonged to a well-trained, versatile voice, which in turn belonged to a

woman in red and black, but the operatic turns were a bit much. Bass was thumped out by a gyrating puppet in a satin shirt. Guitar was not used to full effect and was sometimes lost altogether. Drumming was simple and light. 27 seemed unable to build up a flowing rhythm and sustain it, and often lost the audience with their self-indulgent theatrics.

Sneaky Feelings' music was soundly based on an interplay of soft melodies. They are a four-piece — two guitars, bass and drums — from Dunedin, with four and a half years on the road and in the garage and an album called *Send You* to their credit. The two talented guitarists, Matthew Bannister and David Pine, did most of the singing in this enjoyable show.

A number of songs impressed me, but the titles were lost in the applause. The album doesn't seem to be available in Wellington, or has sold out. However, much of the music tended to disappear into a wash, or purple haze, of meandering sounds that ran into each other. They lacked incisiveness, contrast and vocal assertiveness. A sameness about many of the songs also drew away some of their impact. Quieter songs reminded me for some reason of Pentangle; the faster numbers of a less urgent Clean. Otherwise, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

NEW SIMMONS DRUMS

**SDS 1**

AVAILABLE NOW! UNDER \$1,000!

SDS1 Single digital drum pad. Add to your existing Simmons or acoustic kit.

SDS-EPB Digital sound sampler and EPROM loader.

New from Simmons is the SDS 1, a battery powered, self contained, digital drum. Its sounds are digitally recorded and easily interchangeable, either from the library of sounds available at your Simmons dealer or, more excitingly, from your own personally sampled collection core of the revolutionary sampling and EPROM "blowing" device, the SDS EPB.

The SDS 1 is housed in a full sized, hexagonal Simmons pad, complete with the new rubber playing surface and facilitates perfect dynamic control over volume, pitch bend (up or down), attack and brightness.

Connections are provided for battery eliminator and external trigger, accepting signals from drum machines, miked acoustic drums, drum tracks off tape, sequencers etc.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the SDS 1 is the run "generator". When implemented, this instructs the instrument to output the selected sound at a lower pitch for each consecutive strike of the drum. With control over run time and run amount, it is ideal for huge concert tom fills.

**SIMMONS**

For further information on the drums with todays sound, write or call NZ distributor and service agent.

**Live Sound Ltd**, Box 68-216, Newton, Auckland Ph: 789-125

Invercargill : KEVIN SEXTON. Dunedin : BRISTOL PIANO CO. Chch : CJs MUSIC. Wellington : SHAND MILLER Auckland : KINGSLEY SMITHS & DRUM CITY.

WE WANT YOUR PUNK, FUNK, ROCK N ROLL, YOUR REGGAE, JAZZ AND ALL, YOUR SOUL. CASH 'EM IN, TRADE 'EM IN, GET IT TOGETHER, AND BRING 'EM IN!

**ROCK & ROLL RECORDS**

18 FORT STREET, CITY. PH: 797-899

**LATE NIGHT FRIDAY**

**OPEN SATURDAY 10.30am to 12.30pm**

**MORE TIME FOR PLAY**

Playing with Tomorrow's Musicians Today

**'85**

**SCM** The School of Creative Musicianship

For a free brochure phone: 768-115 or send a S.A.E. to Box 68-378, Newton.

**Small ads**

Small Ads cost \$1.50 per line. Send copy and payment to 'RIU' Small Ads, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.

## TARTAN BONDAGE TROUSERS

For sale, \$200. Also fluffy mohair sweater, \$150. Both ex-UK, as new, colours red/black. Phone Tom Ak 555-339.

## SONGWRITER/MUSICIAN WANTED

Pro-songwriter & musician wishes to meet someone similar to write & record with. Influences are INXS, Tears For Fears, Talking Heads. Must be ambitious with a pro attitude. Ph (09) 675-407, Steve.

## SINGERS

If you are a beginner, amateur or interested in singing, buy this book, it will definitely help you. 'How To Improve Your Singing and Performance'. Send \$9 to Robyn Hill, GPO Box 847, Auckland.

## BEATLES MEMORABILIA

'Band on the Run' gold disc, Beatles Xmas Fan club records, George Harrison signed limited edition 'I Me Mine' book, John & Yoko 'Two Virgins' album. Write 'Records, Records', 213 Stuart St, Dunedin.

## MATON GUITARS FOR SALE

Maton Messiah acoustic guitars 6 & 12 string. Top model, as new, over \$2500 each retail. \$1100 ono each or \$2000 the two. Also Zettwitz stratocaster, mahogany body, ebony fingerboard, Fender hardware, DiMarzio pickups etc, \$1000. Ph Steve, Ak 496-261.

## P.A. FOR HIRE

16 : 4 : 2 desk, effects, multicore, 200w mini P.A. Phone Mick, Ak 653-179.

## BASS CABINET FOR SALE

Acoustic 18" Cerwin Vega, best sound around, \$1000 ono. Ph Bones, Ak 398-185 after 5pm.

## BASS FOR SALE

Steinberger XL2 Bass guitar. New price \$4600. Sell for \$3400, no sensible cash offer refused. Ph Chch 843-698.

## WANTED

Division, Order rarities. Prefer vinyl. Very good tapes considered. Contact Guy, 62 La Rosa St, Green Bay, Auckland. Ph 817-6802.

## ELVIS SINGLES WANTED

Any and all Costello seven inch records from NZ and Aust. Will buy or trade. Write to Ricky Fary, 1 Farm Lane, Eatontown, NJ 07724, USA.

## SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

A 12 week singing course is available for singers and musicians, covering basic techniques. Commencing 28th May. Phone Robyn Hill, 435-859 Auckland.

## MOCKERS WANTED

Any records, tapes, clippings etc. Ph Paranoya, 568-649, Pakuranga.

## RARE INTERESTING RECORDS WANTED

Division, Jam, Stranglers, Cure, Floyd, Joke, Cooper-Clarke, Siouxsie, Bauhaus, Voltaire, Scavengers 'Mr X'. Send details to 'Collector 7', PO Box 4098, Chch, with sae.

## U2 PHOTOS FOR SALE

180 x 120 colour. Recent band profile, sunny evening at Slane castle, Ireland, beautiful, only \$5.50. 180 x 120 b/w, 5 different 1980-83 video and concert shots, incl. 1 autographed picture of the Edge. \$14.50 per set. Please add \$1 p&p per order. Write now to Rockspot Records, Box 169, Carterton.

## MAGAZINES FOR SALE

Zig Zag — top UK Rock Mag, approx 100 issues from No 27 to 121, mint condition. Ph Whakatane 24-581.

## NEW ORDER VIDEO

Melbourne, Nov '82. VHS. Send SAE to J. A. Rogers, PO Box 40-620, Upper Hutt.

## DURAN DURAN DURAN DURAN

Wanting to buy, anything to do with Duran Duran, video cassettes, books, posters etc. Write G Tyson, 16 Derwent St, Oamaru.

## FOR SALE

Rare, interesting, picture discs, albums and tapes. We also stock lots of Blues albums. Send to Round Records, PO Box 464, Hamilton for a free catalogue or send \$2 and you'll go on our mailing list.

## WANTED TO BUY

Rarities, picture discs & imports. Send details to Round Records, PO Box 464, Hamilton.

## RARE TAPES FOR TRADE

Order, Division, C Voltaire, C Twins, Cure, Bunnymen, U2, Smiths, Hunters & Collectors. I also need rare recordings by OMD, Sisters of Mercy, Stranglers, Tones on Tail, ACR, Clash, Cult, 3 Johns, Section 25, Duritti Column, March Violets, Factory bands. Can you help? Genuine replies only please! Show me your list and I'll show you mine. Paul, 71 Miramar North Rd, Miramar, Wellington 3.

## SHURE PRODUCTS

Microphones, cartridges, styli available from NZ agents Audio Advance, 100 Parnell Rd, Auckland, Ph (09) 396-632.

**CASH**

FOR YOUR TAPES

ANYTHING YOU'VE GOT

**RECORD EXCHANGE**

PH: 790-812, 790-820, 735-324

**IAIN SHARP is**

**DOC SHARPIE**

Performing his 'Unique Talents' before

**PEKING MAN**

At the Windsor Castle

June 7th & 8th

**FOR BOOK-WORMS.**

**PREFERENTIAL CUSTOMER CARD**

**RECORD & CASSETTE WAREHOUSE**

**DISCOUNT**

**Rio CLOTHING**

**BOOK WAREHOUSE**