

Wellington

Country face **John Hore** joined the throngs viewing Aussies barnstormers the **Johnnys** when they played here last month. The Johnnys propose to tour again at Christmas ... Porirua's prestigious reggae unit, **Dread Beat and Blood**, are facing restrictions at local venues because some hotel managers are concerned about the clientele the band attracts. Such discrimination is not applied to certain European bands with a far more "destructive" message and followers. Food for thought?

Circus Block 4 have just returned from a foray to the South Island. The exposure was reportedly valuable ... **John Niland**, one of the original Hula-men, is about to release a jazz album on the Eelman label. Andrew Clouston has prepared the artwork ... Jayrem are releasing heavy metal waxings by **Lionheart** (from Dunedin) and **Tokyo** (from Wellington) this month ... and cool runnings from Gregory Isaacs/Dennis Brown and Don Carlos are to be given domestic release by Jayrem this month. Titles are *Judge Not* and *Passing Glance* respectively.

Gore-based **Touring Party Promotions**, which has brought entertainment to the southern regions for the past two years,

Rhythim Cocktail are to record their second tape in Strawberry Studios ... **Look Blue Go Purple** have just completed a video for their EP, *Bewitched ... the Double-happys* are currently touring the country and whilst in Auckland they will put the finishing touches to their forthcoming four track EP. **George Kay**

As both New Zealand film and music win increasing attention internationally, we now have a new indie record company that links the two.

Pagan Records has been formed under the wing of Larry Parr's Mirage Films. Although it's primarily an avenue for film soundtracks (releases planned include soundtrack LPs from the locally-made films *Constance*, *Shaker Run* and *Came A Hot Friday*), Pagan will also release other NZ recordings. Trevor Reekie, formerly of Reaction Records, has been co-opted to look after that side of it.

Pagan's first release will be 'America', the first single from Shona Laing's new album, *Genre*. The album was recorded at Mandrill Studios using lots of up-to-date technology. Bruce Lynch played, produced and arranged and others to work on the record included Frank Gibson Jr, Martin Winch, Jackie Fitzgerald, Suzanne Lynch, Bunny Walters and Anne Crummer. Bruce Morrison (who is associated with Mirage) directed the video for 'America'.

Next will be a 12" single by Scotty & Co (Scott Calhoun and friends — including Mark Bell and Alan Jimson), called 'I Like To Drive.'

Pagan releases will be distributed through RCA Records. Trevor Reekie can be contacted c/- Mirage Films, PO Box 1113, Auckland, or ph 790-097.

● **Afrika Bambaataa** had to pull out of British gigs with **James Brown** because his band, the Sonic Soul Force, had already booked important shows for themselves in the USA.

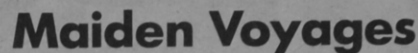
● **Roland Howard** and **Mick Harvey** have publicly denounced the posthumous live **Birthday Party** LP, *It's Still Living*. They say the LP, released without their knowledge by Australia's Missing Link Records, is not a fair representation of the band.

● Former **Undertone**, **John O'Neill**, has a group called **That Petrol Emotion** and a single, 'Keen'.

● An album recorded on Xmas Day, 1977, and featuring a host of yer actual punk stars, has been released by Jock McDonald's **Bollock Brothers**. The LP, 77-78-79 includes all the **Sex Pistols**, **Mick Jones**, **Geordie** and **Youth of Killing Joke**, **Billy Idol**, **Richard Johnson**, **Phil Lynott** (Phil Lynott?), etc.

● Soon-to-be NZ tourists, **Elvis Costello** and **T-Bone Burnett** have released a single, 'The People's Limousine' as **The Coward Brothers**.

Roy Orbison on **Zang Tumb Tuum?** Yup, the Big O's new waxing is 'Wild Hearts', from ZZT's soundtrack to the new **Nick Roeg** movie, *Insignificance*. But Trevor Horn didn't produced it, thankfully, it was recorded in Nashville ... **Martin Shaw** (Doyle from *The Professionals*) plays an ageing Elvis in Alan Bleasdale's new play about The King ... **Sting** appears on the new **Miles Davis** album. **David Byrne** plays a priest in the new movie *Dead End Kids: A History Of Nuclear Power* ... **David Cassidy** has tried to give his new career a boost by appearing in a nude photo session with model Samantha Fox ... **Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel** are back on vinyl again, with a new single, 'Irresistible' ... and **Jeffery Lee Pierce** don't drink spirits any more ...



*Maiden China,
Addington*

The tendency for ambitious bands based south of Auckland has long been for them to drift towards the Big Smoke. Where the opportunities are ...

Or so they say ... but with only one real regular live venue, the Windsor Castle, packin' 'em in, it can be hard for an unknown band to get the chance to break the surface, let alone make waves — as Maiden China found out when they moved up from Christchurch about four months ago.

"You might say we've been low profile — but in Auckland it's pretty hard to be *high* profile, especially if you're new," comments singer/trumpeter Raoul Burgess. So, necessity being the mother of invention, their manager ventured out into the suburbs and the week this interview was conducted, Maiden China were to play the Mt Wellington Trust and were looking at other out-of-the-city venues. Such places usually reverberate to the sound of covers bands, but Burgess wasn't anticipating too much difficulty in winning over the punters: "The thing is, we're not just music — we're *entertainment* on stage."

Maiden China are Ian Hammer (guitar), Lyall Jones (bass), Steve Clarke (keyboards), Brett Cowan (sax, percussion), Lloyd Morgan (drums) and Burgess. They formed to play last year's Christchurch Battle Of the Bands ("for a laugh") —

and, with all of four weeks' practise, won the thing. After that they spent a lot of time touring around the South Island, playing a lot. But they don't find touring a strain — quite the reverse ...

"Outside things can make actually getting on tour difficult," explains Jones. "But once you're underway it's great."

"The thing is when we're touring we've got the one identity as a band, we get a lot closer," adds Burgess. "Otherwise we're all very different people — incredibly different."

Band relationships began to be strained when things didn't go well initially in Auckland — a much-counted-on support slot falling through when the national tour by German band CCCP was aborted, the inability to find decent practice space ... and came to a head with one awful weekend at the Windsor, which got any bad feelings out of the way: "And now we all love each other."

The band hasn't been completely idle, however, and two songs have been recorded at Mandrill Studios. Following record company interest, more recording will be done to make up a mini-album. They've been lucky to have been offered the services of bass player turned sound engineer Roland Kileen, both live and in the studio.

Now that they're back to enjoying what they do, Maiden China want to get the recording wrapped up as quickly as possible (finances permitting), play a bit more round Auckland and — you guessed it — do lots more touring.

Stephen Spencer



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