

6 MONTHS FOR 'ARRY

Crikey Dick, Ed — is that all I get for an 'ard month of collecting filth on musicians? Not bloody worth it, I reckon. Better get onto a bit of moonlighting, eh — see if I can kill two birds with one empty can ...

So I did and went and got myself a gig at the Dynamic Duo's new haunt, the Six Month Club, as, of all things, a barman. Now after being on the other side of the bar for so long I took to the job like cockroaches take to my flat.

So opening night bit on the busy side and pouring drinks ain't much fun, but giving the patrons stick is where it's all at. So the average night's conversation between myself and Cliff (sidekick) goes like this:

Gawd Cliff, 'oo's that paying for 'er drinks with one cent bits?

"Oh, that's the Minister Of

Finance's daughter."

Yeah, well next time charge 'er GST. Oh, Christ, 'ere come Jordan Luck, toss some more beer in the fridge.

"Elo, 'Arry, can I've an iced water?"

Ah, I see you made a lot of bugs bunny on tour.

"Yeah, about 10 bucks."

There you go mate, that's on the 'ouse.

"Good, that's all I can afford."

Quick Cliff, 'ere comes Corless — ready with the tequila.

"Fuck 'Arry — 'oo would give you a job?"

A lot more people than would give you the time of day Mike — now what'll it be?

"Oh, a bottle of Moet to shut 'Arry Lyon up, and a glass of isopropyl for Graham."

There you go — next?

"G'day mate, can I have a double tequila, Baileys and

Cointreau?"

Listen squire, you'd be better off drinking petrol — and that won't cost you \$12 a throw.

Anyway, Cliff, you see that guy over there? Well that's Andrew Fagan so don't serve the girl 'e's with until she proves she's, okay? And speaking of underage, there goes Katango.

Now we better be quick with the scotch tonight because the Flying Nun contingent is 'ere and Doug 'Ood 'as an 'abit of paying people in drinks, or more like them paying 'im in drinks, so make sure we've got at least a dozen bottles and 'alf as much dry.

Eighteen bottles later and as usual they're the last to leave. Nigel, the Terror of Christchurch, shouting and screaming laughter at the top of 'is lungs and Paul ex Propeller executive cum Flying Nun 'anger-onner asleep with chunder down the lapel of 'is 'Allensteins jacket. C'mon Doug, get rid of 'em so we can clean up. Why is it always a bunch of yobbos that stay to the early 'ours of the morning — but wasn't I the same last month?

'ARRY

Shake Summation

The Mockers One Black Friday (RCA)

Another stab at making the perfect Mockers single; and quite a nice one at that. Apart from some very cheesy keyboard bits it's subtle and sparse, Andrew has a melody he sounds comfortable singing ... it's a pleasant little pop song — nothing more. The flip, 'Another Day' is just as nice and very similar. It's ironic that Andrew Fagan can be so interesting while the music's working towards anything but.

The Buckets Full (Bucket Records)

Three likeable but not exceptional bits of power pop in a purple and orange cover. 'Burn The Flag' starts things off jauntily and even seems to steal a bit from 'The Star Spangled Banner' — a bit like a poppy Big Country. 'Bucket Baby' is silly and 'No Answer' is a more measured version of the same style. At least they sound like they're enjoying themselves.

Aotearoa

Maranga Ake Ai (Jayrem)

Aotearoa are nine young Maoris who gathered together with the stated aim of making music that combined various musical idioms

with taha Maori — and it's interesting that it's the indigenous elements that make this record. 'Maranga Ake Ai' features some great singing and a militant lyric — let down by the music, a standard, innocuous club reggae glide. Despite sounding rather familiar, the fine singing and rhythm work carry the flip, 'Haruru Mai', through to be rather better than the A-Side.

Grey Parade

Call To The Trees (Hit Singles)

Agreeably catchy, stylish and melodic without really being exciting, 'Call To The Trees' sounds like a polished-up Diehards — with much improved singing from Mr Ed. The flip, 'Years and Years', sounds a bit like Sneaky Feelings' 'Amnesia' (yup!) in places and would be good but for the icky synth setting.

Violet Summer

The Morning Before (Jayrem)

Hmmm ... a curious record. Steve Wilson plays most of the instruments and sings in a foppish, Bolanish way (rain equals "reen" and pain, "peen"). 'The Morning Before' is a little melodic, a little arty, a little psychedelic and, if taken with a pinch of salt, a little tasty, especially the echoey flute.

'False Words' is at its best with the occasional injection of the guitar sound that the Glitter Band useta have but lets itself down with a silly acoustic guitar/percussion break in the middle. 'I'll Never Let You Down' has a good tune but not much of a lyric. It'd be nice to hear Wilson with a good group around him rather than being left to his own devices, he sounds twisted enough to produce something really good. I do trust he has a sense of humour though.

Vietnam (Jayrem)

An odd mixture of pop and sombreness here — actually the singer sounds like a cross between Andy Fagann and Ian Curtis in places. Best track is the instrumental, 'China Tonite', with its cheeky pinch of the 'Harry Lyon Theme' bassline. 'Another Day' is pleasant too but 'Behind the Paintings' sounds a bit too much like a couple of JD songs for comfort. It would all flow a lot better if the drummer didn't sound like he was trying to imitate a cheap drum machine.

Fear Of Extinction (Jayrem)

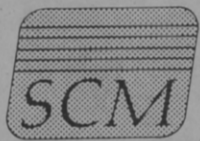
Four songs that seem to mean well but miss the mark. Dominant basslines propel the songs but don't make up for a lack of melodies and some hopeless singing, so the songs don't flow. Best track is the Wire-ish 'Hands Off the Home Team', but I dunno if Wellington ever recovered from that Cure party.

Russell Brown

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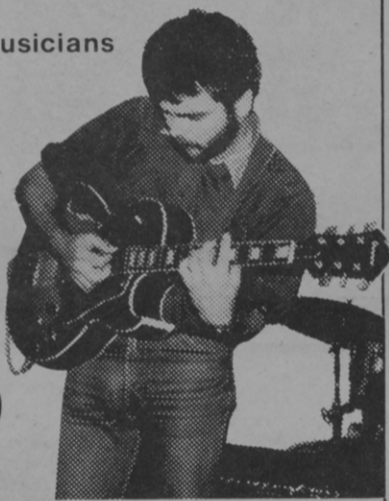
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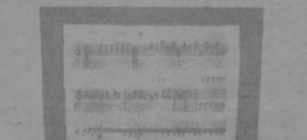
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