

'ROYS' FROM PAGE 4

engage in rough and tumble rituals that make the BNR's little word routines look like free-form jazz. They're here for the three week old band Sticky Filth. Little Ross goes and makes friends.

Out the back, in the sun, in the van, in the carpark, a bunch of Aucklanders roll up, bursting with good cheer. Among them are Alf and Dave from Goblin Mix, who gleefully agree to playing a couple of songs that night ...

Oh dear, Oh shit. Alf has suddenly gone from holding up a wall with his eyes closed to strapping on the bass geetar on stage. Which would be okay, 'cept the singer from Ecnalg is still on stage, finishing up with a quiet little song on a quiet little keyboard. Alf

is unfortunately too drunk to notice. Naughty Alf. Dave eventually joins him on stage and there ensues a classic Goblin Mix "gimme feedback till my ears bleed" sesh. Terry has a non attack and has to go outside for a while. Brian loves it and wants pictures.

The pub is rather fuller than last night, but still short of a break-even crowd. The locals offer a rainbow of reasons: the video boom, all the young people on the projects now living in Australia, end of the mushroom season ...

The Roys play servicably well, able to rest back a little on the fact that the sheer sound of the lineup, with its warm harmonics and insistent bottom bit, is probably enough to get them through in almost any situation. Tonight Little

Ross sports an awesome paisley Nehru jacket, whilst Deberly has gone for an even more Hindu look, with flowing dress, towel on head and stamp between the eyes. The candles have been replaced by a slide projector, courtesy Paul ex-Loving Homes.

Little Ross clutches his shoulder occasionally. He has just had his skull tattoo recoloured in the kitchen of the party separating the two pub sessions — the friendly tattooist is one of the boot boys who make up one sector of the variegated rabble in the house.

In the end, the highlight is a gloriously indelicate impromptu version of 'Venus', keyboards courtesy Trish. Great!

Afterwards, we retire to the Wafer residence for coffee,

sandwiches and video. Lurvvvvely. I slept very comfortably thankyou.

The next morning it begins to piss with rain as we wait for someone to open up the pub so we can get our gear out. The loss of several hundred dollars on the weekend hasn't reduced anyone to tears, but everyone wants to go home.

Home is six hours and a good deal of flatulence away. Tour Belly has begun to manifest itself already — a gastric condition precipitated by excess drinking and the consumption of junk food, TB can result in a rather "coloured" atmosphere in the van, especially when the van is carrying nine people.

Among the tapes on the way back is the rough mix of the band's

most recent recordings — a rather more raw style of thin than the soon-to-be-released EP, Whack It All Down, coming to you on Flying Nun.

Bird Nest Roys are subdued but essentially as lunatic as ever on the way back — long may they remain so. I have begun to doubt my own sanity after toppling out of the van into the Auckland dusk, legs all creased up, and popping up to RIU for an all-night shift to get the magazine to you complacent sods who think it's as easy as picking one up off the counter of your local record shop. Ah, rock 'n' roll ...

Russell Brown

schtick for my taste, but the crowd seems to love it.

Interestingly enough, the audience appear to be young, white and all dressed in La Coste t-shirts — very strange. The version of Rufus's 'Ain't Nobody' suffered from overkill, with the guest drummer from Culture Club and everybody else hitting everything in sight. But that's rock 'n' roll for you. But I shouldn't be too harsh, Chaka performs well in the ballad 'Through The Fire' and does some fine soul shouting in 'We Can Work It Out'. In many ways I would have preferred to see a video of Chaka with Rufus, as on that great double live album released earlier this year. It's still good to see Chaka performing, but a little less of the rock bombast would give her a better showcase for her soul voice. KB

Style Council

Far East and Out (CEL)

As any Weller fan would have seen this on the box the other week, there seems little point in reviewing it. I will tell you however that the current world tour doesn't have a brass section and that the cover version this time round is Curtis Mayfield's 'Move On Up'. Yes, that is the one the Jam used to do and no, the film of the Australian tour won't be called *Down Under and Down and Out*. MP

Late News...

Tim Finn has paved the way for his new solo career with a worldwide contract with Virgin Records ... new Dexys Midnight Runners LP *Don't Stand Me Down* is the subject of an attempted injunction by Alan Winstanley over his lack of a production credit on the LP sleeve. He had to leave during mixing and Kevin Rowland finished it off and listed himself as producer. Winstanley is credited with "recording" the album ... new Smiths single is 'The Boy With the Thorn in His Side'. The band recently cancelled a projected Italian tour because someone from that country was making death threats to Morrissey ... Strangler Hugh Cornwell has a solo single, 'One In A Million', taken from his sound track for the film *Bleeding Star*, in which he plays the lead role ... America's Butthole Surfers are changing their name to the Stargazers for their UK tour.

The new Tall Dwarfs record, *That's The Short and the Long Of it*, out now and is an exceptionally good record; starry review next ish ... South Auckland funksters Ardijah are to record at Harlequin with Dave McCartney and Trevor Reekie producing and Paul Streetskra engineering ... local film-maker William Keddel has his short film, *The Maintenance of Silence*, based on Neil Roberts' bombing of the Wanganui Computer Centre, start Sept 20 at the Capitol Cinema in Dominion Rd, as entree to the USA film *Stranger Than Paradise* ... new Wellington band is Space Monkees, a three piece featuring Maurice Newport (drums, ex Dirt Cheap, Soul Rebels), Davey McGhie (vocals, bass, ex Mangawekas, Soul Rebels) and Billy 'The Kid' Watkins (guitar, vocals, ex Dented Fender).

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