ummation

Good Luck to You (CBS 12")
This has been on high rotate for several weeks, and it sticks out which is more of a comment on commercial radio than the song. Although it lacks the catchiness of 'Room that Echoes' and 'Lift Your Head Up High,' it could be more typical of Peking Man: studied funk, extremely well-crafted, but over-worked so that it's squeaky clean and antiseptic. Apart from the cocktail jazz sax, only Mar-garet Urlich's harmonies provide much character. That's the 7" — over 12" the song is stretched to its limits, with a few more instruments thrown in by producer Bruce Lynch. Once again, so careful — why do I keep getting distracted? 'Get the Feeling' indeed; Peking Man might be falling into

the "tasty licks" trap.

Pop Mechanix
Celebration of the Skin

(Hit Singles)
Arresting opening from the drummer Kevin Emmett, then it's

U2 for the guitar lines and verses; Pop Mechanix emerge on the chorus — male duos seem to be essential currently - but it works on you finally. Heavy pop that's retained its grittiness. 'Land of Broken Dreams,' "mastered from a cassette dub", is very refreshing with its ringing acoustic guitars. Quirky vocals (Paul Scott) to a lovely sad melody. A cut-rate baroque production from Eddie Rayner; love the witty use of timpanis. Ardijah

Give Me Your Number (Pagan)

Full of life, it leaps out from this batch with its energetic synth hook. Lightweight, but that's what's good about it. The breathy-voiced Betty Monga is a smooth, assured pop singer, and while the plucked bass might be a cliche, it's essential for the funk sound. The HM guitar solo is the perfect touch HM guitar solo is the perfect touch and even the cut-off ending works. The instrumental version on the Bside shows how backing music can stand up on its own. The gui-tar solo is even more over-the-top, but its tongue is firmly in cheek

Beat Soldiers Conversation (Ode)

Bottom heavy from the start, surprising for producer/engineer Phil Yule. When the vocalist stops singing to the floor and gets out

of the lower register he proves to be the best feature. Started out as early Simple Minds, with the Doors' 'Love Me Two Times' riff thrown in, but neither influence is developed. On 'Comfortable Living the pastiche is perfected; ringing guitar lines, and anthemic stadium sound which falls away for a meaningful chorus, then back to the guitar lines ... there's no question who these guys want to be, but they haven't got the

Chris Bourke

Sneaky Feelings Better Than Before

(Flying Nun 12")
Firstly, 'Better Than Before' is not the work of melancholic beauty that 'Husband House' was, and I must admit to being very disap-pointed when I first heard and saw it on TV. Happily, having heard the record, I can say that 'Better Than Before' is another very good song from the Sneakys, but less impressed am I with the song's production. In the end it manages to lead the song nowhere, as despite being full of sounds, the production falters just when it needs to punch.

On the flip, things get enjoyably country-Byrdsy with pedal steel geetar from Red McKelvie on

David Pine's 'Wouldn't Cry', and there's also John Kelcher's sad another-day-at-the-pub 'Here's to the Other Six, recorded at Strawberry Fields

NZ Artists for NZ Music Gluepot, May 23

It's hard to criticise a gig for such a good cause — New Zealand music on the radio. Some artists - like Marc Hunter and Mike Caen — had come over from Australia to support the NZ music quota and petition. Karyn Hay and Annabel Carr took signatures at the door, and Neville Purvis reminded us at every single opportunity what we were here for. However the two best bands came at the beginning and end of the night — Ardijah, up first, and Herbs, last.

Ardijah were particularly wonderful, all three songs that I saw. Very clean and very close to funk and soul bliss. I caught 'Give Me Your Number', their single — Betty Monga has a fine voice indeed,

and she phrases well, so the words are clear. If the band are missing a live drummer it doesn't show, in fact the drum machine fitted in with their hi-tech outlook. Surely with Ardijah springing up from South Auckland there must

be unlimited talent out there. Soul On Ice were more full-on soul, with a brass section and back-up singers. They looked good, if a little crowded (11 members) and sounded reasonable. Good singing, but with so many people making noise on stage it was a bit heavy-handed at times — a little more space is needed. There were sound problems too, with the bass no doubt being felt by the drinkers downstairs, let alone shaking my fingernails

Next along was a group of musicians who stayed on stage for a large part of the night: Tony Waine (Narcs) played bass, Grant Ryan on gat, Stewart Pearce on keyboards, and Steven Clarkson on drums. What followed was a rather medi-ocre time, Trudi Green on vocals and amazing dress, Harry Lyon played a kind of electrified blues skiffle, including a country version of 'Fugitive for Love' — and it sounded good countryfied, too.

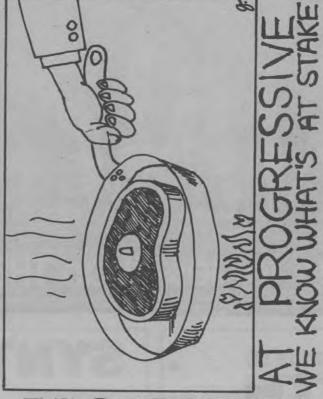
Mike Caen, the "ex-pat", is in an Aussie band called Pink Slips. He at last started to show some form, but it was too much macho bullshit for me; he did a dull version of 'Satellite Song'. Women were reasonably well represented, with all the singers being women until Mike Caen took the stage. Josie Rika did a respectable version of 'Nutbush City Limits', and then smilin' Tommy Fergusson was raucous with 'Gimme Some Lovin'.

If people hadn't come to see any other band, they had come to

see Marc Hunter, and things certainly woke up when he got up. Dragon's greatest hits followed, in-cluding 'Rain' and 'April Sun in Cuba'. Hunter's beginning to look like the David Thomas of Aussie rock. Herbs were late starting, but it's hard not to succumb to the rhythms of 'Nuclear Waste', 'On My Mind' and 'Azania'. They sounded good, as usual.

Two thoughts: the number of covers done was just enough to make me think it was a pity all the songs weren't New Zealand too. Also, someone shoot Neville Purvis — his humour/persona does not work on any level at all. I be-lieve funds raised will go towards CONTINUED ON PAGE 26





43 ANZAC AVE. PHONE 795-344 PO BOX 4187, AUCKLAND 1.



SOUND TRAINING

The AERIAL RAILWAY is conducting courses in sound engineering at its Moehau studio, Port Charles, Coromandel. The course is designed for those seeking a technical background to sound engineering.

The course starts on Sunday August 3rd and runs for six days. The fee of \$300 covers Food, Accommodation, Tuition and 24-hour access to the studio. Limit of ten per course.

The 8-track studio is situated in a wooded river valley overlooking a beach.

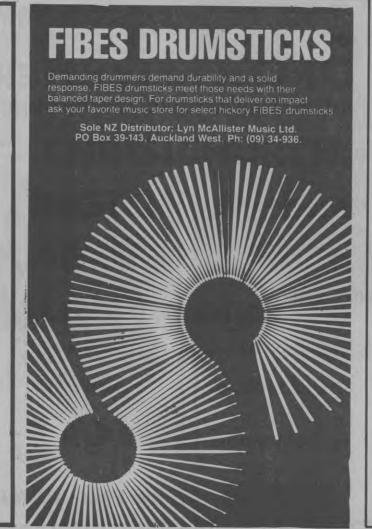
Subjects covered; Acoustics, Noise, Microphone Techniques, 'Hands-on' Recording and Mixing, Musical Instruments, 'Toys' and Sound Processors, Basic Electronics, and much, much, more!

INTERESTED?

Contact Us Now for more Information.



AERIAL RAILWAY STUDIO MOEHAU COMMUNITY PORT CHARLES COROMANDEL R.D. PH (084356) 730 COLVILLE





YAMAHA Rev 7 The Digital Reverb. Best NZ price \$3795 YAMAHA Spx 90 New Multi-Fx. Hear it to believe it \$1790 YAMAHA R1000, Digital Reverb great for the Portastudio \$1995 YAMAHA MT1X, Multitracker 4 tracks and great features \$1800 FOSTEX X15 11, Muso-friendly 4 track \$900 ROLAND MC500, Composer, sequencer. Amazing \$1995.

New IBANEZ Roadstar and Pro-line guitars, new models and colours for '86, featuring Floyd Rose Temolo systems . . . from \$695

New MARSHALL Bass Combo, unbelievable bottom end And a full range of Marshall Amps, Check them out!!

Coming in the next few days KRAMER Guitars and accessories. These are the ones you've been waiting for!!

New MAXIMA Chrome Wound Strings, twice the life and tone of any other brand, Europe's No. 1 Guitar Strings \$10.95

Bass Strings \$39.95. Quality Hard to Beat.

HAMER PROTOTYPE Fat sound a dream to play \$995
CUSTOM SQUIER STRAT, white, Floyd Rose, Seymour Duncans \$1395
IBANEZ ROADSTAR 11 Black, single coil p/ups \$700
MATON JB4 FRETLESS BASS, Great Condition \$1100
PROFILE FRETLESS PRECISION Neat Second Bass, New \$420
HAMER SUNBURST 2 to choose from at \$750
TOKAI VINTAGE STRATOCASTER 2 to choose from at \$695

We also stock Mesa-Boogie Amps and accessories, Tom Scholz Rockman, Ibanez Fx Pedals, Boss Fx Pedals, Gretsch and Sonor Drumkits, Aphex Rack Fx, Roland Rack Fx. We also take orders for Custom made cases for your every musical

ROCK TRAX Ever wished you had a band to practise with? Now you have, classy backing tracks with informative book full of new licks. Cassette & Book \$21.95.

THE FENDER STRATOCASTER book for all you Strat freaks, colour photos with full history

ROCKIT AMPS & PA systems. A Big display of the classiest Kiwi product available. Come in and check out the New

EMG PICKUPS for Telecaster, Stratocaster, P. Bass, J. Bass. From \$450 per set

IBANEZ AXSTAR BASS White w/case, excellent tone \$950 ALEMBIC 6 STRING BASS Korina Wood, Active pickups \$P.O.A. WESTONE BASSES & GUITARS Incredible value for money. From

STEINBERGER 6 STRING GUITAR All Carbon Fibre \$2600 STEINBERGER TRANS-TREM GUITAR As used by Dire Straits \$P.O.A. GIBSON 330 SEMI-ACOUŞTIC A fine example \$1395

Okay so that covers it for another month. So call up to Musical Sounds and check out the latest in Musical Equipment and the best price range. Run by musicians for everyone.

219-221 Great South Rd. Greenlane, Auckland. Ph: 543-835, 541-426 Open Sat Morn 9.30 - 12.30

VISA, BANKCARD, AMEX accepted.