

Singles Bar

The Pogues
Poguetry in Motion
(Festival 12")

Four wonderful tracks that sparkle and surprise. 'London Girl' belts along but takes a bit of getting used to. The real gem is 'A Rainy Night in Soho', with Shane MacGowan handling a beautiful ballad that drips with strings and shows a totally different side to the band. The other two tracks are more in the traditional area and sound just as great.

Ruby Turner
I'm in Love (Live 12")

I like this better than her earlier big hit, nice vocal touches and understated rhythm that still drives it along. A good taster for the forthcoming album.

Tee Vee Toons
The Jetsons Theme
(Liberation 12")

Taken from that great double album of TV hits. Four versions with 'Jane Get Me Off This Crazy Thing' getting real wild. A dub mix of dozens of theme songs put to a dance beat. Just right for funky TV junkies.

Julian Jo Watt
Hot to Touch (EMI)

It's that dreaded Paul Hardcastle re-mixing again. But I kinda like this jazz-funk workout, fairly big club hit in the UK, and could do the same out here. Similar to Hardcastle's 'Rain Forest'.

I'm Talking
Do You Wanna Be (Regular 12")

Australian friends tell me this is a hell of a hot band live, but this sounds a bit dated to me. It's got a groove but it gets stuck in it, and nothing interesting happens. Still, a big hit in Australia, and I'm sure it will appeal to some over here.

Device
Hanging on a Heart Attack
(Chrysalis 7")

The blurb sheet says, "... let the music and image of this band speak for itself." The music is sorta modern UK/USA rock, the image is... well shall we say... sculptured. Music for people who think, but not a lot.

The Saints (You Can't Tamper With)
The Temple of the Lord
(Mushroom 7")

A Catholic outing for Chris Bailey and one of the better records released this month. Not exactly a laugh a minute, but I like religious songs.

Kerry Buchanan

Shake Summation

Verlaines

Doomsday (Flying Nun 12")

This sure sounds stripped down after the lush orchestration of *Hallelujah All the Way Home* — only guitar, bass, drums and piano backing a nihilistic Graeme Downes lyric. But it's got that bite that so often distinguishes the Verlaines live, and launches itself at the end. The flipside 'New Kinda Hero' would have to be the purest piece of pop that the Verlaines have ever put on vinyl, and is very lovable. Along with a colourful spaghetti western cover, it all makes for yet another groovily professional package from the Verlaines.

Alpaca Brothers

Legless (Flying Nun 12")

It's been a while coming, but *Legless* is just so full of noise (home recorded!) that its immediate impact (at appropriate volume) is stunning. The three songs on the first side are all intense and

good — 'Hey Man', rivetted around a wicked bassline, and 'It's No Joke' follow similar structures of repetition, but 'The Lie' is different — coming crashing down around furious drumming, vocals from Look Blue Go Purple's Norma O'Malley and keyboards from Peter Gutteridge. The instrumental 'Zither' doesn't quite make it — perhaps if it was 20 minutes long like Husker Du's monumental 'Re-occurring Dreams' ... 'Wilderness' however is the highpoint and finale of the record, all its components melding perfectly to the cry of "die in the wilderness!"

Legless draws on an angry spirit, more cohesive than Scorched Earth Policy's sprawling *Going Thru a Hole* ... and is undoubtedly my favourite slab of NZ vinyl so far this year. Press your nose against the dirty window of their dreams.

Flaming Stars

Art Statement (F Star 7")

The Flaming Stars were formed in mid-84 and hail from Gisborne. There's not much "art" here, but the rock and roll is barely constrained — they only just manage to hold it all together, and that's the way I like it! 'Art Statement' has some cool little wild bits which are sadly lacking in the derivative cow-

boy shit on the B-side. Available for \$3.50 plus \$1 p&p from F Star, 40 Ormond Rd, Gisborne.

The Warners
Elsie's Got a Gun (Meltdown)

This seven-inch EP (you play it at 33rpm) is a worthwhile effort from the Warners. They've sensibly avoided the straightjacket of what Russell Brown once called "ramalamapunk". There are four songs, with side one — 'Elsie's Got a Gun' and 'Nuclear Wasted' being six point three times better than side two, even if that is the side with all the spirit.

Paul McKessar

Letters

Post to 'RIU' Letters,
PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.

Varsity Violence

Dear RIU,

On Friday August 22 I attended a concert at the university cafeteria by the Auckland band the Warners along with about 350-400

other people. Mainly teenagers out for a fun night, which it was — most of the time. It was the best concert I have ever attended especially when a group of skinhead morons were refused entry by the band. The Warners played for about 90 minutes with almost everyone dancing and enjoying themselves, but then the crunch came.

Shortly after the band had finished its set a large group of these skinheads forced their way through the door and very bravely attacked the lead singer, who along with the organisers, had prevented them from entering earlier. They all piled into him, kicking him about the head and at one stage even dragged a young man with his leg in plaster outside and kicked his head in.

These scenes were not unlike several "Cut the Crap" rages which I have attended, and then they were let in. How much longer do we have to put up with these cowards spoiling our fun and making us think twice about going and seeing our favourite bands. But full marks to the Warners for being the only people I have yet seen to stand up to this small group of dickheads.

NM St Heliers, Auckland

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