

The B-side dub mix goes on a bit, and somehow loses that fun feel; aren't they supposed to be *more* fun?

Chris Bourke

Cement Garden
Only One (Meltdown 12")

Unfortunately, the first thing that strikes me about this record is the subdued nature of the recording. This sadly collides with the nature of the music — energetic pop from Palmy North. The six songs were all recorded at Dolphin Studios, and my picks are 'Jodi' from side one and 'Just Couldn't Stay' and 'The Valley' from side two. 'Burning' is the only "standard" song here, but I think the recording tends to lessen the impact and sparkle of the Cement Garden's first record. It seems they have the songs and energy though....

Paul McKessar

Rumours

US & UK

The **Violent Femmes** are in a quandry after **Gordon Gano** quit recently ... **Madness** have called it a day. Saith Suggs: "It was a perfectly amicable split, but there was just too much compromise involved in the band" ... old sneerface **Billy Idol** smiles from the cover of his new album; the single 'To Be a Lover' was written in 1968 by Stax greats Booker T and William Bell ... **Miles Davis**'s new LP will include a version of **Scruffy Politti**'s 'Perfect Way'; the planned collaboration with **Prince** didn't eventuate however.

ZZ Top were chuffed when they arrived in London last month to be greeted by airport staff in false beards and sunglasses ... **Lionel**

Richie's *Dancing on the Ceiling* went triple gold before release in South Africa recently ... **ZTT** bought **Stiff Records** last month, with Dave Robinson still on the staff ... the **Smiths** have left Rough Trade for EMI, meanwhile their guitarist Johnny Marr is working with **Keith Richards**.

Dunedin

Netherworld Dancing Toys, so quiet of late, are soon to re-emerge with a national tour ... and the **Idles**, idle for a while also, made their first live appearance for some time recently ... **Sneaky Feelings** are to move to Auckland at the end of December. Matthew Bannister meanwhile is working on a solo EP ... the **Alpaca Brothers** have disintegrated into nothingness

Backdoor Blues Band singer Ted Clark landed up in a central Otago hospital with back injuries after a leap from the top of a PA stack into a blanket held by the crowd went wrong. Mr Clark, who reputedly bounced half a metre on impact, is well on the road to recovery ... **Orange** singer/guitarist Andrew Brough is now second guitarist for the **Straitjacket Fits**, who are laying low for the rest of the year. The Orange will bow out with a weekend at the Oriental this month ... **Spaghettis** to record an album ... former Chills drummer **Alan Haig** has been recording and playing with **Peter Gutteridge**, while ex-Crystal Zoom singer **Bruce Mahalski** has popped up again in **Let's Get Naked**.

Issue six of vital zine **Garage** is on the streets, as is the latest edition of **EST**. Most of the work for the latter was done by **Robert Scott** on the Bats' recent European sojourn ... new Dunedin label **Rational Records** soon to debut with a compilation titled **Art for Chart Sake**. It features Armalite

Hour, Aardvark, Craig Watt and His Horse, the Baxters, the Idles, the Spaghettis, the Moon, the Shorts, Let's Get Naked, and Rhythm Cocktail. All the bands took part in a recent extravaganza at Sammys nightclub to finance the record.

Finally, the **Dunedin Sound** has been officially pronounced *dead* by all concerned.

The Cartilage Family

Auckland

Volcanic Productions, who recently held their second course for women sound engineers, plus a benefit gig at the Gluepot, plan a three-day festival "up north" in February ... at Progressive, **Low Profile** and **Able Tasmans** have been working on albums, while the finished **Birds Nest Roys** album is said to be "very, very good". **Sam Snake** is recording an EP with the help of ex-Danse Macabre guitarist **Weston Prince** ... the return of **IQU** takes place at the Brat on October 9 ... the **Tunnellers** have a cassette out. Send \$5 to Box 6292, Auckland

Massage records have Duncan Phipps' 'Love Overload' 45 released; coming soon are releases by **Scream'n' K. Hawkins** and the **Kiwi Animal**.

In order to stay operating as a live venue for overseas and major local acts, the re-vamped **Galaxy** now has a nightclub alter ego. The **Asylum** will play the latest soul/funk mixes with ex-Brat deejay **Simon Grigg** and **Roger Perry** at the turntables ... congrats to **Dave Dobbyn** and **Herbs** for making No 1 with 'Slice of Heaven.'

Spin magazine gave lengthy and colourful coverage to three Flying Nun bands in their October issue. "Pop is sweet, and there's something sweet about the Bats," wrote underground reviewer Andrea 'Enthal'. "What keeps that

sweetness bearable is the band's roughness. One speck of polish would turn their sound to mush, but their music's not about polish and slickness. Even when they rock hard, their sound is like used cardboard: soft, rough around the edges, and very plain."

"Behind **Look Blue Go Purple**'s softness is an engagingly homespun roughness that keeps their choirlike vocal harmonies and lilting melodies from turning rancid," she said, while **Birds Nest Roys** territory was described as, "a world that features mystical middle-eastern slinks one moment, then descends to the darkest metronome pit the next ... The Roys build their fine-feathered sound like a bird's nest — from very, simple, easy to obtain scraps."

Chris Bourke

Christchurch

Onset Offset have recently released an album by **Junkanoo** and **Dillingers Brain**, with each band taking one side, plus a concept tape *The Jamming of ZM*. Keep an eye out for a series of "Onset Offset" nights at the Gladstone ... Flying Nun are busy with **Look Blue Go Purple**'s latest out soon, while **Jean Paul Sartre Experience** are back in the studio ... after months of hassles with printing, **Failsafe** have finally got *Biding Our Time* into the shops, and it's well worth the wait. They are now working on their third compilation tape.

John Greenfield

Wellington

Psychodelicatessen is the title of a new album from **Haemoglobin** through Wellington indie South Indies, who would also be interested in hearing from poets and musos who would like to contribute material for a new album.

Write P O Box 4016, Wellington ... **Manson Family** have been recording new material ... **Skeptics** were recently reviewed in the US *Spin* magazine ... **Compos Mentis** have new material out on the streets.

The **Electric Ballroom** recently closed its doors to punters, but the **Eagles Nest** is a new venue in town situated in Newtown ... **Craw-billy Creeps** are gearing up for an out-of-town adventure.

Aotearoa have a 12" record due as well as a full-length album entitled *Singing For Our People* ... Jayrem have **Died Pretty** on record plus on cassette which features a bonus track which went to No 1 on the indie charts ... **Strikemaster, Blitz, Confessor** and others feature on a hot metal compilation due for release in the UK. It will also be available here on import but at local prices.

Snappy Records, a new pop label, have signed overseas acts

Cool Daddy and **Smithereens** for local consumption ... the **Pope** has been hindering organisers' efforts to obtain transport for punters wishing to see **Genesis** ... **Halloween** is coming and so is **Flesh D-Vice** with a special show over that Halloween weekend where they will preview a lot of new material ... **Putty in Her Hands** have new material waiting for release ... **Ringstone Round** are new and describe their sound as a cross between GBH and Black Sabbath.

The **Resurrectionists** have resurfaced ... **Peter Shaw** is working on an album ... Frontier studios are busy with several acts including Cabasa, Back and Forwards, Primates, Kiwi Zoo and Hamme-rack ... **On a Weta** should be playing live soon, and finally there's talk of a punk music festival over Labour Weekend.

Gerald Dwyer

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