

"No Ordinary Band" Contest Bellblock, New Plymouth, August 28 & 29

The first "battle of the bands" type contest held in Taranaki for more than a decade attracted 15 bands from around the central North Island. A main prize of \$1000 cash and \$1000 recording time at Auckland's Mandrill Studio drew groups from Hamilton, Palmerston North and even Gisborne.

The contest started with New Plymouth band Psychic, who played some straight-ahead rock with touches of blues. More than an hour passed before Casualty took the stage. The trio had nearly all their uninsured gear stolen the previous weekend and had to play on borrowed instruments. The punk band put in a hard fast set of three-chord thrash, getting through twice as many songs as other entrants. Next up was another local band the Candles. Normally a covers group, members performed a tight if uninspired set of pub rock.

A new band showing a lot of promise played fourth on the first night. The Urchins were very reminiscent of

early Bats — a bit rough, but with some good songs already under their belts. Keep an eye on this trio. Palmerston North's Harry Death was next, mixing wall of sound music with ranted ravings. The lead singer did a startling imitation halfway between Chris Knox and Quasimodo while wearing a gold, glitter jacket left over from disco days. The five-piece drew the strongest reaction of the crowd — disgust and anger.

Cygnat Committee from Hamilton were due on last on Friday, but delays meant the band didn't get underway till 10.59pm. At 11pm the lights came on, the plug got pulled and the band got put back to Saturday afternoon.

As a result the competition resumed at the ungodly hour of 3.30pm the next day. Cygnat Committee put its troubles behind it to deliver a very strong set, though the Bauhaus influences were very obvious. Fellow Hamilton band Pieces of Cod played

next but abysmal singing dulled its power pop approach. New Plymouth's the Nod put in a technically excellent set, jamming blues and heavy rock.

Another local band the Bananamen had a rough opening but improved during its performance to be a highlight of the two nights. The trio put emphasis on melody and rhythm with the addition of saxophone making an interesting, if hard to define, combination. Three Leaning Men from Palm-

erston North played well but smacked of the Violent Femmes, while Taranaki threesome No Comment contributed some messy blues-rock.

New Plymouth band Sticky Filth gave the event a solid thrashing about the ears. The trio played loud and hard but with confidence and commitment. Their loyal supporters gave them a good reception but the group also won over a lot of new fans with its performance.

Hamilton nerd boys Joe 90 found

the Filths a hard act to follow, and their icehouse-influenced synth pop was not well received. Bassett Road Murders from Palmerston North and Gisborne's Big Fix put in solid sets but problems with the sound mix and a lack of variety saw them dip out.

After a private consultation the five judges (including RWP frontman Dick Driver) picked Sticky Filth as the winners over Cygnat Committee in a split decision.

David Bishop

LIVE



SOUNDS UNLIMITED NEW MARKET

10 REMUERA RD. PO BOX 9555

PHONE 542-667

GIVE ME IMPORTS OR GIVE ME DEATH!

DEAD KENNEDYS: GIVE ME CONVENIENCE
: FRANKENCHRIST
: ET AL

BIG BLACK: HEADACHE
GBH: NO NEED TO PANIC
HUSKER DU: ZEN ARCADE ETC
SOVIET FRANCE: ROTATIONS
LOVE: DA CAPO
4 SKINS: WONDERFUL WORLD
PANTHER BURNS: SHAKE RAG
VEGA/REV: SUICIDE'S 2ND
BUZZCOCKS: PTS 1 2 3
DANIELLE DAX: INKY BLOATERS
DAYGLO ABORTIONS: FEED US
VARIOUS: TEXAS FLASHBACKS 1-6
SPK: DEKOMPOSITIONES
FATS COMET: ROCKCHESTER
BAD BRAINS: I AGAINST I
LYDIA LUNCH: HYSTERIE
CONFLICT: TURNING REBELLION
BLACK FLAG: DAMAGED ETC
GAME THEORY: BIG SHOT CHRONICLES
SONIC YOUTH: EVOL

: BAD MOON RISING

MDC: SOKE SIGNALS

LAIBACH: OPUS DEI

DAMNED: NOT CAPTAINS BIRTHDAY

RING WRITE OR REVEAL

YOURSELF TO US IN PERSON

SOUNDS UNLIMITED NEWMARKET

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY ALISON MOYET, FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD, & BILLY IDOL USE KORG GEAR?



ALISON MOYET

BILLY IDOL
IDOL



COZ IT SOUNDS BETTER!



MASER
BROADCAST SYSTEMS



AURAL EXCITER
COMPELLOR



Applied Research & Technology Inc.

DIGITAL REVERBS
GRAPHIC EQUALISERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEND THIS COUPON TODAY

MASER BROADCAST SYSTEMS LTD.

Unit 3, 7 Marken Place, Glenfield. PO Box 65-166,
Auckland, N.Z. Ph: (09) 444-3583 Telex: NZ 63100

Name

Address

LONDON UNDERGROUND

HEAR THE UNDERGROUND SOUND
LIVE AT THE LONDON UNDERGROUND
SUPPORTING KIWI MUSIC WED-SAT

PHOTOS BY GRAHAM HOOPER



CIVIC TAVERN CNR QUEEN & WELLESLEY St, CITY