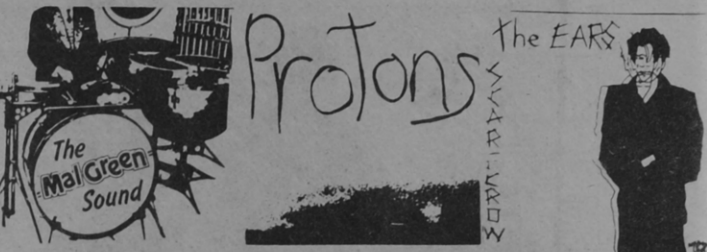


Rory Gallagher
Stage Struck (Chrysalis)
Yes, Rory Gallagher is better on stage than in the studio. Yes, this album of live versions of songs from recent studio albums is probably as good as his earlier live albums (his best work to date) and, no, it doesn't seem to mean anything any more. Gallagher seems eternally stuck in the flash-flash guitar-trio groove, very fast, very noisy, very empty. As a songwriter he only has a couple of ideas and the songs are usually springboards for guitar soloing (at which he is no slouch). While this is good of its kind, Gallagher is a victim of changing times. One for the museum of hotlicks. KW
Bill Haley 1927-1981 (K-tel)
The question today is whether Haley, as represented by this intelligently compiled, 18 track, memorial album, ever had a true rock and roll heart. As a test case, let us compare Little Richard and Elvis Presley's versions of 'Rip It Up'

with Haley. Richard and Elvis sang: 'I'm gonna rip it up/I'm gonna shake it up/I'm gonna ball it up/ I'm gonna rock it up/ And ball tonight.' Haley turned it to: 'I'm gonna rip it up/I'm gonna shake it up/I'm gonna break it up/I'm gonna rock it up/At the ball tonight.' The prosecution rests its case. PG
Fawlty Towers Second Sitting Not The Nine O'Clock News (BBC Records)
Comedy albums are a bit like candy floss, the pleasure may be great, but it's very fleeting. The Fawlty Towers album is worth listening to once, anyway, just to hear John Cleese as the lunatic Basil say to his wife: 'We should get you on Mastermind dear. And now, Sybil Fawlty from Torquay. Topic — the bleedin' obvious.'
Not The 9 O'Clock News shows why it was never shown on television here — a little too strong. Sample joke: 'Hi, I'm Ted Kennedy, and I've got some good advice for all my fellow Americans. Never drive along a narrow bridge late at night when you're pissed out of your mind.' As a true Kiwi philosopher, Fred Dagg, once said: 'If it's fun in this country

they ban it, or make a law against it.' PG
Wayne Roland Brown
Fools and Pretenders (RCA)
This type of music has to nag you into submission or it's failed. After half a dozen plays only the title track stays with me, and then not enough to be enjoyable (or annoying). So what we've got is a bunch of pop songs which, at best, bounce along agreeably ('Our Love Is On The Fault Line') and at worst veer close to the laboured posturing of Harry Chapin ('Fame's Got Its Price'). A prissy production doesn't help much either.
The pity is that there are some dynamite musicians involved here. The back-up work on 'Burning Me Up' alone makes me wish they could have been let loose. PT
Eric Burdon's Fire Dept
Last Drive (Ariola)
Embarrassing junk from an anonymous hard-rock band led by one-time Animal Eric Burdon. The title track is set a couple of years into the future when petrol is for military use only. Rebel "citizen drivers" join "outlaw motorcycle gangs" for one last big drive ... KW
Lamebrained.

Ainsworths 'Coin'
Regulators 'Neat Boy' (Olympic)
A song about transvestites from the Ainsworths. Nice tribal drumming, a la Ant. The Regulators are more singalong. A straight-up pop song, perhaps a bit insubstantial. A word of warning — don't believe the labels, they're on the wrong sides.
The Mockers
'Good Old Days' (Mocker Music)
Worthy re-release of one of the first Wellington independent singles. Simple but captivating, 'Good Old Days' is stronger than anything to come out of Bunk. Flip is the semi-classic 'Murder in Manners St'. Pity about the cover, though.
Teddy Boys
Looking For Another Girl (CBS)
Though the name suggests a rock and roll purist band, this is nothing of the sort. From Auckland, the Teddy Boys appear to be going for the market Ol'55 have cornered in Australia. 'Sorry Babe', on the other side is wimp reggae. I think these guys have lost their direction.
Aellian Blade 'Listen' (Desert)
Yet another bunch who think playing live has nothing to do with being a band. Firmly entrenched in the early seventies, 'Listen' comes over like rehearsed Genesis. The other song is 'The Truth In Your Eyes'.
Protons Lights On (Bunk)
The Protons come from Wellington, though this debut single was recorded in Auckland. A reasonable tune, but the lyrics are tacky to the point of being painful. On the flip is 'Modern Homes', only slightly better.
Mal Green Sound
'Follow Me' (Mushroom/RTC)
First solo single from the ex-Enz sticksman. Strange synthesiser piece dealing with the Jonestown massacre. B-Side is 'The Quando', synth-disco designed to start a new dance craze.
The Beat 'Drowning' (Arista)
First single from the *Wha'ppen* album. Slow and dubbish, it's not as immediately forceful as 'Too Nice To Talk To', but nevertheless very good. 'All Out To Get You' on the other side is slightly more like the Beat we've known, but still with a strong Caribbean flavour.



The Ears
Scarecrow (Missing Link)
Peter Lillie
Adventures In Pain In Paradise (Missing Link)
With the success of the Birthday Party in Britain, I suppose a wave of copyist bands is inevitable. The Ears do it well on 'Scarecrow', a powerful song with excellent, offbeat vocals and an A1 picture sleeve. B-Side is 'Lollyhater' — equally strong.
Peter Lillie comes from Melbourne. 'Adventures In Pain In Paradise' is instantly likeable, south seas cool. 'Homicide-Division 4' reaffirms Lillie's refusal to be influenced by what's happening around him.
The Bureau 'Only For Sheep' Freeze 'Southern Freeze' Kraftwerk 'Pocket Calculator'
The Bureau are a splinter group from Dexy's. Wonderful horns on a meaty song that comes close to disco. The new vocalist, however, sounds like he is on leave from Dr Feel-good. Freeze are the first in the new wave of British jazz-funk bands. Tight, infectious radio material with limp falsetto singing. Kraftwerk are the lads

who invented futurism before anyone knew what it meant. Taken from *Computer World*, their first album in four years, 'Pocket Calculator' proves they've still got it — whatever it was.
Mark Phillips
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When In Australia ...
Rip It Up is available at Phantom Records and Record Plant in Sydney, and Missing Link Records in Melbourne. By the way, *Extra* is shelved as 1 & 2 lost bucks. Don't send money for 3 or 4.

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