NO.48 JULY 1981 **20,000 MONTHLY**

U' NZ RECORD STORIS





When Blam Blam made their debut, late in 1980, they seemed an unlikely bet for success. Sudden time changes and anti-nuclear songs hardly make for conventional radio material. Yet last month, their first EP reached number nine on the Auckland sales charts

Tim Mahon, Mark Bell and Don McGlashan have all recorded before. Tim and Mark with the Whizzkids, and Don with From Scratch. Their first real taste of a large studio, however, came with 'Motivation' — their Class Of

"That song was only the second thing we'd done on 24-track," says Mark. "It was very experimental because the people working on it didn't know anything about the

machinery. In a way, we were Harlequin's guinea pigs."

Don continues, "What we didn't realise then was that it's that last hour before you go to bed that is the most important. We put quite a bit of work into thinking what the song should sound like, but come that last hour, we were just too tired, and we let it go.'

By the time the Blams came to do the EP things had changed. The material had developed, as had their understanding of the studio.

"Well," says Mark, "that was the first time we had ever been in the studio and not been conscious of the money we were spending

The band's first single, 'There Is No Depression In New Zealand' will be out very shortly. The song is the theme tune from a cabaret show devised by Richard von Sturmer. Don describes it as an attempt to expose the way New Zealanders build myths around themselves. The flip, 'Gotta Be Guilty', has been around for a while as 'Thomas Is

In the short period they have been performing, the Blams' music has diversified considerably. Frantic numbers like 'Battleship Grey' have given way to more subtle ones like 'Respect'

"We have this desire to be an orchestra," says Mark, "but slowly we are coming to terms with the fact that there are only three of us."

Don elaborates. "Because we are starting to improve, we are finding that we are able to fit more notes in than we used to be able to. Lately we have been writing these huge funkadelic epics that sound as if we should have ten people on stage playing cowbells. There is another song without drums, like 'Respect', on the way. I would like to do a bit more of that sort of thing. I like to have that soft feel too, rather than be full on all the time.

The problem with more adventurous material is achieving a good live sound, and the Blams acknowledge their debt to long-time sound man, David Rudolph.

We have never tried to hide the fact that David is the fourth member. If he wasn't capable of getting the sound that he can, a lot of the things we try would be impossible.

Currently the band is on a large-scale tour with the Screaming Meemees and the Newmatics. Billed as the Screaming Blam-matic Roadshow, it is a venture that until now would have seemed impossible. Originally devised by Tim and Simon Grigg, it was turned into reality by the Students Arts Council.

Don explains. "We presented the idea to Brian and Gissella of SAC, and they sold to the Universities. Organisation is the hardest part. We are travelling in three vans — only one of which is certain to make it. I think plasticine plays a big role in holding together the Meemees' van!"

Once the tour is over, there are high hopes for an album. "It's all quite hazy," says Mark. "It is something that will be funded by Propeller on a private basis. It will be low budget, because a three-piece can do things more quickly. We hope to start as soon as we get back to Auckland. Some of the songs will have to be re-arranged and shortened. Other than that, they will be songs we have written recently. We have four new ones that we hope to break in

Although Blam Blam try to be optimistic about their future, they are certainly worried about the state of

IT, identify the four b Address guitarivocal guitar/vocals

the local scene. Tim has very definite thoughts about it

It costs heaps to perform. If you make \$700 on the door, chances are the bar has taken about \$1000. Yet the band has to pay for advertising, PA, wages for door people and sound and lighting crew. It all adds up. There was a time when the breweries used to organise tours. The bands not only got guarantees, but also a percentage. These days there are just too many bands and too many agencies. In Australia, you pay \$5 to see a band — here it costs less than going to the pictures. We hope the University circuit will

Any ambitions for the future?

"We'd like to make Simon Grigg rich. Apart from that, we would like to live in a studio for three weeks. We don't have any goals like going to the States or Britain, because we don't feel we've done enough here yet. Perhaps after the album. As for me personally, I'd like to play cocktail music on a cruise ship. Mark Phillips

TENT CUBAN SLIDE OF THE TOWN MESSAGE OF LOVE *LIVE TRACK RECORDED CENTRAL PARK AUGUST 30, 1980



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RUMOURS

UK & US

Now that Magazine have Now that Magazine have split, Buzzcocks news is becoming fashionable again. While Devoto says he would have to have tried everything else before going back to Pete Shelley, Steve Garvey, former Buzzcocks drummer, has a new band, Motivation ... Steely Dan co-owner Donald Fagen. band, Motivation ... Steely Dan co-owner, Donald Fagen, is planning a solo album after a successful attempt at a solo track for new movie, Heavy Metal ... Tom Petty's knee took a bashing on a trampoline last month and his American tour dates were rescheduled ... Talking Heads spreading out further with news of Jerry Harrison solo album and David Byrne producing the B52s ... Pretenders' newie is called Pretenders 2. Imaginative, eh? Siouxsie and the Banshees followed release of their latest,

Ju Ju, by announcing they will not tour anymore after their current British circuit ... Ian Dury has confirmed a special Royal Wedding show for July 29 ... Gypie Mayo has left Dr Feelgood, and will be replaced



Fringe fun: Human League's Phil Oakey, Robert Gordon.

by new guitarist Johnny Guitar,

formerly of the Count Bishops. Seems like the silly season's got to the Northern Hemisphere got to the Northern Hemisphere early this year, with nothing much happening this month, but a hefty stack of album releases. So here goes. A Certain Ratio *To Each*, Linx Intuition, UB40 Present Arms, Nico Drama, Ramones Pleasant

Dreams, Blue Oyster Cult Fire Of Unknown Origin, Echo & the Bunnymen Heaven Up There, Yoko Ono Season Of Glass, Ben E. King Street Tough, Eddy Grant Can't Get Enough, Psychedelic Furs Talk Talk Talk, Killing Joke What's This Forl, Au Pairs Playing With A Different Sex.





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Playthings have released 'Coloured'/'Sit Down, Stand Up'. Both tracks are live and mixed by Paul Keen ... Volkswagens, the Pin Group and Pedestrians have plans to record EPs during July/ August.

Narcs are recording a series

Narcs are recording a series of demo tapes — have an EP and a North Island tour in mind for later this year. Newz return to Christchurch for two weeks late July.

Newtones' second single featuring 'My World' and 'Bells' will be released August 26 — will play Auckland in September ... the Surge have taken time off to work on some original material ... rhythm and blues band the Strand now playing Monday to Wednesday

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Instigators have recorded a Ripper 45. Penknife Glides have done one for Reaction. Dance Macabre may do like-Cure producer Chris Parry may produce a Reaction

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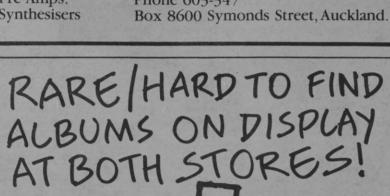
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Top, Rank And File. Above,

sitting on two more Joy Division clips.

Elephant Man Director: David Lynch David Lynch made his name

on the underground circuit with a quite plotless little exercise in the creeping horrors called *Eraserhead*. Then came the chance to direct this tale of

the most horrifically deformed

human recorded by medical history. Parallels with Truffaut's Wild Child and Herzog's Kaspar Hauser are obvious, but with his almost fetishistic

explorations of the atmosphere and objects of Victorian society,

Lynch has made a film that is all his own. Freddie Francis

contributes some evocative black-and-white photography whilst John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins, Freddie Jones, Wendy

Hiller, John Gielgud and Anne Bancroft give memorable performances. A moving film that could not fail to bring tears to national Film Festival, this tale of twisted fundamentalism is one of the director's more quirky creations. Basically, it tells of the grandson of a hell-fire revivalist preacher who returns to the Deep South after army service, and asserts his own personality by appointing himself the head of a new "Church Without Christ". Essentially a chamber film, Huston's expressionist vision is brilliantly supported by Gerry Fisher's stunning photography Fisher's stunning photography and a fine score from the great Alex North. Huston himself, in a cameo as the grandfather, is the only 'name' actor, but Brad Dourif and Amy Wright in their scenes together are memorable and Ned Beatty contributes a suitably greasy

performance as Dourit's shortlived competitor in the biblebashing business

The last time that Thomas Hardy was bought to the screen was in Schlesinger's Far From The Madding Crowd, which, weighed down with four "star" performers and Schlesinger's sledgehammer direction, was a Polanski's Tess is quite the opposite with the director's breathtakingly beautiful evocation of the Victorian country. side (in stark contrast to the seedy urban milieu of *Elephant Man*). The script makes a remarkable achievement in remarkable achievement in transcribing novel to film, and Nastassia Kinski's quiet performance as Tess is a perfect symbol for the rape of Victorian England by nineteenth century nouveau riche values.

William Dart



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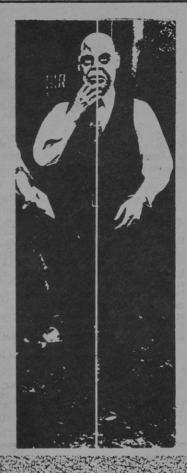
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The Swingers It Ain't What You Dance (Ripper)

This one has to be top of the list, if only because it is going to be top of the pops for the forseeable future. Phil Judd takes another giant step into psychedelia with a song that probably has less substance than 'Counting the Beat', but which still bristles with hooks. Back in the days when Judd was Split Enz, they made the mistake of hanging around the Antipodes until their moment had passed — let's hope he doesn't make the same mistake

twice.
The Techtones
State of Mind (CBS)
The Techtones are a bit confusing. After last year's sprightly 'That Girl', and pronouncements about pure pop, they sure didn't seem to be heading for a record like this. It's an interesting hybrid with some Pettvesque guitar and a some Pettyesque guitar and a great, world-weary, almost British, vocal from Jimmy Juricevich. The words don't



bear too close a listen, though. 'Same Old Game' on the other half seems to be on the same subject — whatever it is — but takes it at a brisk clip. The Newtones Paint the Town Red (Newtones)

Paint the Town Red (Newtones)
You all remember the
Newtones from Class of 81.
'New Way' was the longest
track on the album, a very
linear song featuring an awful
lot of guitar flanging. The news
with this self-distributed single
is that Tony Peake has turned
down the flanger. 'Paint the
Town', and 'Christchurch Part Town', and 'Christchurch Part 2' are both overlong, and based on a single repetitive chord sequence. 'China' seems like a

backwards look at the band's 77 roots, but the instrumental 'Santa Anna' shows real promise, with a rhythmic drive and edgy funk that shows someone in there knows where the 80s are

Greg Clark The Green Room (CBS)

This record is silly. I can't decide whether I hold that against it or not.

Playthings
Coloured/Sit Down
(Playthings)

A democratic DIY record with no apparent A-Side. 'Coloured' stomps, while 'Sit Down' chugs. 'Coloured' is Down' chugs. 'Coloured' is longer than 'Sit Down'. Only

the drummer really shows a determination to move out of the seventies' mood, and even then, only on 'Coloured'. Toy Love showed the way out of this particular blind alley two years ago. Steroids

Credit Card (Bunk)

This record could surprise a lot of Aucklanders. I presume Wellingtonians already know that the Steroids are more than that the Steroids are more than ramalamadolequeue, but it isn't that widely realised up north. 'Credit Card' is intriguing, with a nimble bass, snappy drumming and intelligent (read sparing) use of punky fuzz guitar. The vocal performance is a little short of that standard, but the words have flashes of all-too-painful truth. Buy this all-too-painful truth. Buy this

Blind Date Apache/Don't Let It Get To You (WEA)

To You (WEA)
Another guitar instrumental, and not a lot more I can say about Side One of this Double-A sided single. You either like the Shadows or you don't. The other side of this one, though, is a song — with words. Don't Let It Get To You' is solid with a catchy chorus, and features a vocal which is a definite step up from Mike Caen's previous recording. The words, though, are better not listened to.

The Red

Just Starting Over (Bunk)
Another rich, lower-register vocal performance in the current British fashion. The Red show some affinity with ska, and a nifty bass-player. Once again, though, 'Just Starting Over' seems too long. The flip, 'A Bunch of Fives' is shorter, and could be said to boogie. This record has a guitar solo on each side.

Ray Columbus and the Invaders Till We Kissed (Epic) Anyone who thinks of Ray Anyone who thinks of Ray Columbus as a lightweight country singer, on the strength of his TV appearances of the last few years, should get a load of this. Somehow, with a minimum of studio equipment, Columbus comes on like Scott Walker at the beginning, before letting loose over a deranged string section on the choruses. The flip has a curious instrumental and a live version of If I Fell with great harmony singing Fell' with great harmony singing by two of the Invaders.

Neons
Time Of The Season (Reaction)
No prizes for guessing who
this is, but I'm not going to tell
you. A very recently-deceased
Auckland band makes a parting
shot at fame under thin disguise shot at fame under thin disguise and hints at the reasons for their demise. While they do an interesting job on the old Zombies gem, 'Time Of The Season' on the A Side, the two originals on the B Side don't really match up. Wait and see for radio success for 'Season' for radio success for 'Season', and hope for their sake Carlos Santana doesn't get to it.

Larry and the Ladders Looking For An Answer(Ripper)

Looking For An Answer (Ripper)
The Ladders have a profile so low it's almost horizontal. Apart from an abysmal video on *Kulcha*, I've never seen them, but that glimpse and this record suggest a slight identity crisis. Larry (if it is him) has a good R'n'B-ish voice, and the tune is certainly hummable. but the whole enterprise seems a bit lacking in direction. Then again, it could all be part of Ripper's master plan — something else I've never seen. Francis Stark



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When Allan Iimson of the Steroids first mooted the Wellington Zone concert, it seemed fairly daring. Despite a summer of frantic, if chaotic, activity, many doubted the viability of a large-venue concert featuring only local bands. After all, the city only supported two regular venues — now down to one, — and of the local bands, probably only the Steroids, the Rodents and the Mockers had developed the pulling power to consistently headline successfully. Nonetheless, the Steroids went ahead, and Digits, BRF and the

Mockers all jumped at the chance to join the show.

By the night of the show, advance sales had assured success. In the event, there were over five hundred people, with a these turned away. In with others turned away. hindsight, it was very much the last wild fling of a riotous summer. A fractious pot-pourri of moderne chic-ists, the punk rump, angry young men (with rump, angry young men (with one featuring prominently), drunks, junkies, starving artists and clean-cut suburban kids milled around the hall. Some were there for the music, some for the scene, some out of curiosity and some no doubt just seeking safety in numbers.

The record of the show was pretty much accidental. Chris

pretty much accidental. Chris Cullinan went along to record BRF. He crossed a couple of mikes on the ceiling above the stage and let the tape run for the entire concert. It was not until he played the tape back while the crew, band members and hangers on were loading out that the idea of a live album was mooted. Mike Alexander of Bunk was keen and the result is the Wellington Zone album.

Whatever its merits as a record of the bands involved, it stands primarily as a record of an event, and of Wellington

over the summer of 80-81 Les Crew

Beat Rhythm Fashion

Dan Birch, bass. Nino Birch, guitar. Glenn Stewart, drums.

WZE tracks: 'Song Of Hairless
Apes' (Skempton/Birch), 'No
Great Oaks' (Skempton/Birch)
and 'Art And Duty' (Skempton/
Birch).

number of other line-ups over the previous year, primarily around the 'Billy The Club' scene, (Westown Quintet, Life

27 and two singles will follow. Bookings: Matthew 04-859-373.

Tony, bass.

Primarily a studio project, the Digits were formed in March 1980 as a vehicle for the

Plans: Digit's first album, Dog Wrestled to Ground by Under-arm Combat Flea is out. Second album, Grendle the Savage is Off His Gumboots is also

Previous recording: BRF at that time a duo (Skempton/Birch) contributed two tracks to the

BRF was formed in December 1980 and the WZC was the band's first gig. The Birch brothers had been involved in a number of other line-ups over

In The Fridge).

Plans: BRF have a single,
Beings Rest Finally/Bring
Real Freedom out on Bunk July

The Digits

Delmer, vocals. Malcolm, guitar. John, drums.

WZC tracks: 'Trifid In Our Kitchen' (Malcolm) and 'A Stab In Reach Of Vision' (Tony).

songwriting activities of Tony and Malcolm. This was the band's first live gig and no others are planned at the moment.

complete. Contact: 04-787-433.

The Mockers

Charlie Mannell, drums. Dale Monaghan, guitar. Gary Curtis, bass/keyboards.

Andrew Fagan, vocals.

WZC tracks: 'What We've
Missed' (Fagan/Monaghan),
'Fight With The World' (Curtis/ Monaghan) and 'Confused' (Curtis/Fagan).

(Curtis/Fagan).

Previous recording: The single 'Good Old Days'/Murder In Manners St', released as a doit-yourself project, October 1980. Now re-released and available again.

Formed in 1980 from the remnants of Ambitious Vegetables. Have played a few gigs.

tables. Have played a few gigs outside of Wellington.

Plans: Mockers have a singloid

(45rpm A-side and 33rpm B-side), 'Trendy Lefties'/'So Close', 'Tonight', 'Gombolic Fever' due out on Bunk. Attempting to do more out of town gigs.

Bookings: Don 04-847-157.

Steroids

Andrew Drey, bass/vocals. Alan Jimson, guitar, devices/vocals.

Leo Keane, drums. WZC tracks: 'Mr Average' (Drey/Jimson), 'Credit Card' (Drey/Jimson/Keane) 'Observation'.

Observation.

Previous recording: 'Mr Average'/'Out Of Control' a single on White Light Records.

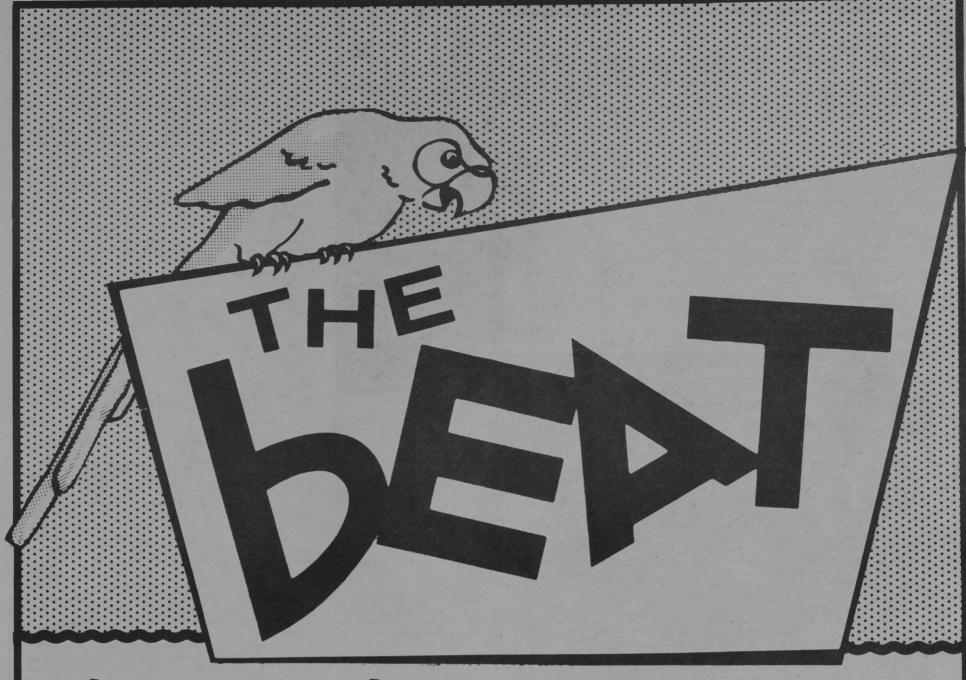
Steroids were formed in Easter 1979, and have continued up to the present with only one recent line-up change. Have toured extensively.

Plans: Steroids have a new, single out on Bunk, 'Credit Card'/'Destination Tokyo'. Currently taking a break from live work and working on new

Bookings: Andy 04-849-049.

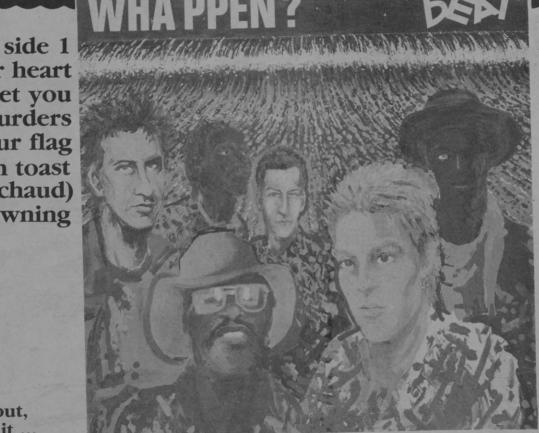






the new album WHAPPEN?

side 1
doors of your heart
all out to get you
monkey murders
i am your flag
french toast
(soleil trop chaud)
drowning



side 2
dream home in nz
walk away
over and over
cheated
get-a-job
the limits we set

p.s. if it's worn out, stop dancing on it ...

JUST CAN'T STOP IT





featuring: mirror in the bathroom hands off ... she's mine etc.



The news conference is scattered. Jim Barnes is talking, drummer Steve Prestwich makes a fast exit when he hears where he is supposed to be after breakfast. Bassist Phil Small's location is unknown. Ian Moss surveys Auckland from the window. Walker's anticipating what might happen in the US apart from fame and fortune.

"We are definitely dealing with a record company that doesn't quite know what the hell it's signed, and that doesn't have any great urge to find out. Hopefully, when they hear us live, individuals will become fanatical, and

we'll start making some headway.

The tour's also a testing ground. As far as Australia is concerned, Chisel may have hit the top, but Walker says the way in which the band goes down in the States will show if the music's genuine, from the gut, and in line with its origins

"It would be nice to sell records, because you can make millions of bucks there, but if we go in and play to a cross-section audience, and they get off on it, I wouldn't care if we don't sell five records. It's an indication of all the music that myself, and some of the other guys have listened to since we were kids, that we've been able to pull it off, perform it, and that we haven't missed the point."

Walker's not concerned about the Australian lyrics being irrelevant to US people.

"Because the music is American-influenced they'll never figure out exactly what the songs are about, or even care. And I don't really care about it either. Lyrically, we're not trying to present an Australian identity, and we're not trying to avoid becoming an American band, but we do tend to write about what directly affects us. That'll always be Australia, and Australian events, or else the focus will be on this part of the world. There's a lot of things important to people living in South East Asia, that Americans don't know about, but it's still what we'll write about."

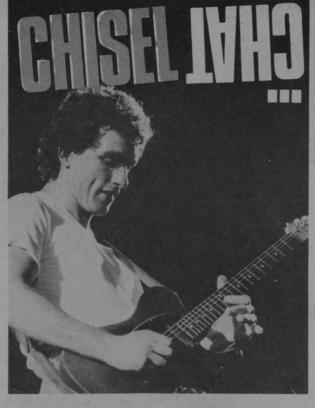
So the music is the prime communicator, not lyrics?

"Probably. On the other hand, it has been shown as possible for bands to go into America from other areas of the world, and keep their lyric content pretty ethnic, like English bands, Carribean bands, Bob Marley. He never sang about jet planes going into LA and stuff, he sang about problems in Kingston. If the Americans become interested, it can lead them to find out about a part of the world which they're not generally involved with.

They'll concentrate on East material for the US, but Walker says if the band is in need of a change after "playing East to death" since Christmas 1979, they'll use newer songs. Songwriting within the band is gradually evening out. For the first two albums Walker carried most of the

credits, but now each member has his own.
"It's the best thing that ever happened. I'm all for it. It
means we're more of a band. With the first two albums, the guys just dropped into the studio like session musicians. There was no commitment, but having their own songs they're a whole lot more involved. East was the album where that happened, and the one where we sound like what we are.

During the tour, Walker will be trying to squeeze in negotiations for the soundtrack distribution of the film *Freedom*, made by the *Breaker Morant* team.



It's about an unemployed 22 year old who takes to stealing cars. Walker has written the score. It sounds nothing like Chisel, but has a "Cold Chisel flavour."
"In doing it, I deliberately steered clear of writing as I normally do for Cold Chisel, because I didn't want to rob any material which we could use in the future. This is the

any material which we could use in the future. This is the first outside project I dived into and got paid properly for, so it was a big break from years of musical involvement with the band.

The story of the Star Hotel GS, is in Ian Moss' words, a first in Australian history. The hotel was home for a weird mixture of Newcastle unemployed: surfies, camps and bikies. They all congregated at the Star. It was their turf, and it had a huge reputation for raging.

In a classic case of the fat cat versus the powerless underdog, Tooths brewery decided they couldn't afford alterations which would mean the local council extending the hotel's licence, so the Star was to be demolished for a carpark.

One September night in 1979, several thousand arrived for the farewell. The police moved in after closing time to try and kick everyone out. They met with some resistance. Two police cars were overturned and set on fire, 51 people were arrested.

Chisel has immortalised the story in song. Don Walker claims they took advantage of the incident by doing so, but the fact remains it's a powerful number — something of an

anthem which even Hamilton people know about.

At Maceys, Hamiltonians large and small, young and old, are seated cross-legged on the floor of what could have been a church hall at one time, or workers' canteen. They are slowly raised to their feet by the Visitors, who produce a set where the songs run into one another, and the vocalist moves like a Barbie doll.

However, people are jumping at the end, and at around 11 Cold Chisel hit the stage. Jim Barnes swaggers on with his customary combat boots, headband, on which the lettering is meant to read "fight for freedom", and a massive bottle of vodka. He launches into 'Conversations' -

Maceys took 850 that night, and they're all totally absorbed, hanging from the rafters, shaking fists and smiling. The pace is fast. 'Four Walls' is kept to a minimum, a new song is thrown in, followed by a frenetic 'Risin' Sun' Ian Moss takes vocals on Phil Small's number 'My Baby'

Phil Small sucks on a cigarette.

The lighting is selective, and effective. White spots hit Barnes, highlight Moss and his excellent guitar, and draw Don Walker from the back, where he's buried behind gear.

'Cheap Wine' obviously touches a few hearts, only to be followed by what could have been a disaster. It's 'Star Hotel', and Jim Barnes' mike cuts out, at the very crucial moment. He tries it again, smiles, and shrugs apologetically at the crowd. Steve Prestwich's forehead is screwed up in

Amazingly, Hamilton carries on singing, and the line spent last night under custody" is clearly audible. Walker takes the keyboard down, and slowly builds up and up, and the mike is back on.

The evening ends with two encores and a special song for heavy metal fans. Barnes capped it with wild antics on the amps through 'Wild Thing', and then mixed sociably with an ecstatic audience.

Maceys lights up, and it's all over.

The day before Walker had talked about the band's position, and the position of rock and roll. It is not as

simple as going as far as a band can go.

"I don't see it on normal limits of what a rock and roll band can do. I think bands should go beyond being just entertainment, you know, big stadiums, clubs full of kids. Rock and roll should be as much of a force in society as that guy is." He points to Hiwi Tauroa on the Herald's front page. "The best rock and roll always has been.

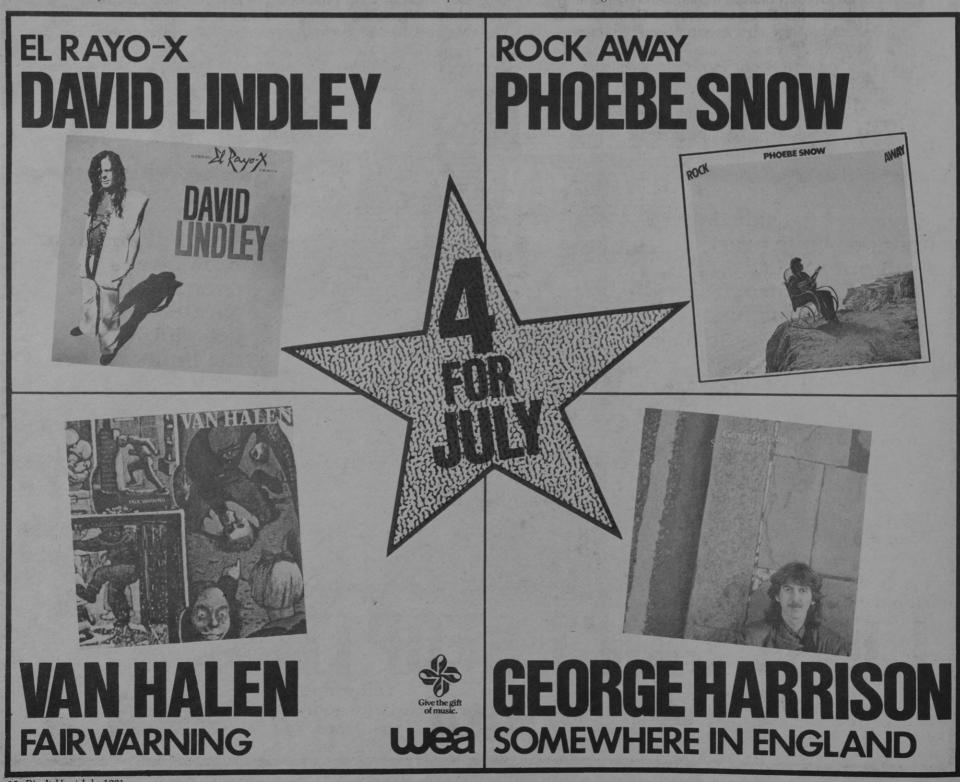
"At the moment, rock and roll around the world is sad

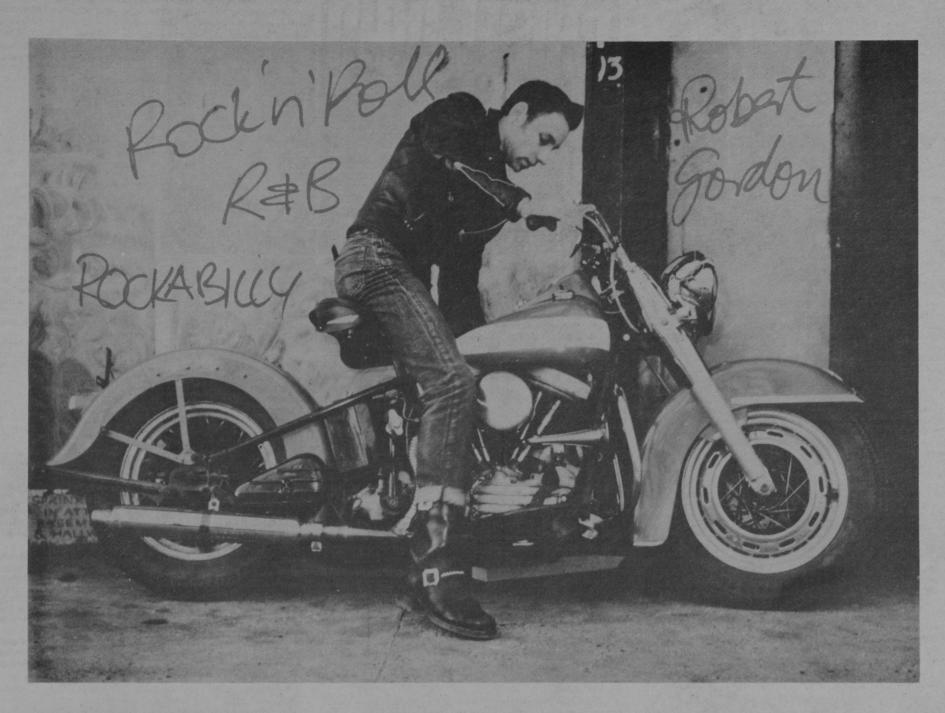
because it's all cream puff entertainment. People have forgotten just how forceful rock and roll can be, and it's slipped back to being like popular music was in 1960, when it was past the Elvis stage, and had degenerated into Pat Boone pap.

"Even English music movements have degenerated into fashion, and in the States it's Lover Boy, and Reo Speedwagon — mass consumer pap which has no affect on

people's lives.
"We're more than that in Australia, I wouldn't be pretentious enough to say we are a political force, but I think it's gone further than just being entertainment."

A perfect understatement. AnnLouise Martin





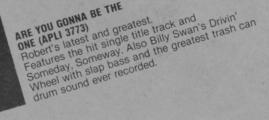
Robert Gordon started in his teens by fronting bands like the Newports and the Confidentials. Played the New York Avenue circuit in rough clubs like the Famous, the Rocket Room and

Benny's Rebel Room. Picked up stylistic influences from seeing big name rockers like Little Richard and Link Wray. Was often seen astride a powerful Harley. Actually used his Harley for sound effects on Too Fast To Live, Too Young To Die, a track from his new album Are You Gonna Be The One. Of the album Robert Gordon says: "This is an

extension of what I've done in the past. The main thing about this album is it doesn't sound dated. You can tell we were having fun in the studio and I think it comes

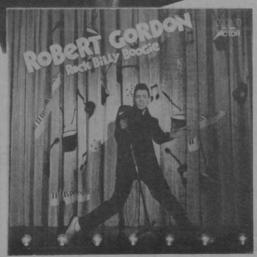
across on the record." It does. Hear it yourself and you'll know what Robert Gordon is talking about.

In fact hear the whole Robert Gordon catalogue.

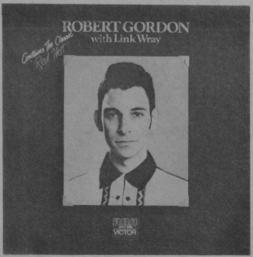




BAD BOY (APLI 3523)
Crazy Man Crazy, Born To Lose, Nervous, Is It Wrong (For Loving You) and 7 more.
Accompanied by the Wildcats with Chris Spedding on lead guitar.



ROCK BILLY BOOGIE (APLI 3294)
It's Only Make Believe, Black Slacks, Wheel Of Fortune, Am I Blue, Walk On By and Gordon's own tribute to his early idol Gene Vincent, The Catman, plus 6 more.



ROBERT GORDON WITH LINK WRAY (APLI 3296)
Gordon's 1977 debut album. A raw rocking
platter with the chart single Red Hot. Won
Gordon and Wray a Cash Box award as "Top
Duo of the Year." Also Summertime Blues,
Boppin' The Blues, The Fool, 6 more.



The Beat Wha'ppen Go-Feet

Just Can't Stop It was among the finest albums to be released last year. Classics like 'Hands Off, She's Mine' and 'Mirror in the Bathroom' show-cased the Beat's mastery of tricky words and danceable rhythms. Further proof of their skill came with the intermediate single, Too Nice To Talk To', sadly passed over by New Zealand radio. After a successful debut, it

must be tempting to follow the formula. The Beat have avoided this with Wha'ppen. Though they retain their original sound, they have kept the songs diverse in style, and distinctly

fresh. 'Doors Of Your Heart', the second single from the album, kicks into gear with a blast from Saxa's horn. Dub effects on Ranking Roger's toasting make it a tasty opener. The full pace rocker, 'All Out To Get pace rocker, All Out 10 Get You', leads nicely into the latin 'Monkey Murders'. On 'I Am Your Flag', added brass gives a soulful feel, while the lyrics prove the Beat's politics don't begin and end with 'Stand Down Margaret'. 'French Toast' adds some

'French Toast' adds some Carribean light relief before 'Drowning' wanders into a rich production job by Bob Sargeant. 'A Dream Home In New Zealand' deals with nuclear war, New Zealand being the last retreat. Of the remaining five songs, only two impress, 'Get A Job' and 'Cheated', but

both are potential hit singles.

Although Wha ppen is not as immediately forceful as Just Can't Stop It, it is a confident work. Regardless of changing musical fashion, I have no doubt that the Beat can only get stronger. Mark Phillips

Magazine Magic, Murder and the Weather Virgin

Magazine have always been an acquired taste, a band who've blended musical sophistication (when that wasn't the thing to do) with Devoto's own very personalised and figurative



Howard Devoto

world-view

Their three previous studio albums have veered from the ambitious if flawed Real Life through the gothic weightiness of Secondhand Daylight to the brisk and accessible moods of

Correct Use of Soap.
And now Magic, Murder and the Weather, again an album of distinct qualities. Soap dropped all pretensions, yet it retained the band's inherent drama and imaginainnerent drama and imagina-tion. Magic continues this anti-melodrama drift into a funkiness and rhythmic buoy-ancy that they've seldom achieved in the past. McGeoch's departure after

Soap was temporarily filled by sound-alike Robin Simon who merely duplicated McGeoch's presence on the live Play and when he left, Ben Mandelson, an old associate, was employed On Magic his touches are deft and sparing in contrast to the aggressive chord pressures of McGeoch and his subtleties have left more room for Adamhave left more room for Adamson's ingenuity (he must rank as one of the best bassists anywhere) and Doyle's precision drumming. This difference has given the album more flexibility. 'About the Weather', 'The Honeymoon Killers' and 'The Great Man's Secrets' are all gems, combining the best features of the hand — Formula's

tures of the band — Formula's knack for producing keyboard lines that provide the initial melodic basis for Magazine's



landscapes. 'This Poison', the single, stands out. Devoto beguiling, the band funky. 'Suburban Rhonda' and 'The Garden' insinuate rather than state. And on 'So Lucky' and the 'Naked Eye' Adamson and Doyle run into overtime with

So Magic is an album of human textures and wisps of Magazine atmosphere. Its propulsion is less intense than its predecessors but its inventiveness remains at the highest

of quotients.
But since its release Devoto has left the band which means that Magazine have had their chips. I'll miss them, a lot, especially when they were capable of conjuring up albums

the likes of Magic.

A minute's silence, perhaps? George Kay

Ray Columbus and the Invaders Anthology

For the collector this is pretty much the perfect set. The packaging is excellent, from the beautifully-dated look of the cover photos to the informative, detailed liner notes inside the gatefold.

the gatefold.

Add in the inclusion of a live version from Perth of 'She's A Mod' circa 1964, and the first single by Columbus and the Invaders, 'Money Lover', and it's the sort of record oldies'



Jim Carroll

freaks in Australia will go weak

freaks in Australia will go weak at the knees over. What's a surprise is how well most of the songs hold up. Till We Kissed' is a pop classic that will probably astonish newcomers who only know Columbus as a middle of the road television personality.

road television personality.

The Righteous Brothers' feel of 'Till We Kissed' is not retained on the other 15 tracks, which instead have the raw jumpy sound of mid-60s British

beat music.
Generally the local boys hold up better here than, for example, the Kinks 15 years on. Nostalgia may draw some to this album. The music should hold a lot more. Phil Gifford

David Lindley El Rayo-X Asylum

The Main Point: This album's The Main Point: This album's given me more sheer fun than almost anything I've heard this year. Whenever it's playing — which is a helluva lot — I'm seized by paroxysms of that good old foot-stompin', backbone-slippin' funky chicken. Go forth, buy it and get afflicted.

Feels sooo good.

The Background Stuff: David Lindley's been around for years. He's played on the better work of such as Linda Ronstadt (in '74) and Rod Stewart (in '75). More cimificantly, he's '75). More significantly, he's been Jackson Browne's guitarist

cum fiddler for the past decade and was an important presence on a couple of Ry Cooder's recent LPs, especially the magnificent Bop Till You Drop.

In fact, Cooder's work is the nearest comparison one can find to Lindley's debut. Both musicians share a near-faultless ability to refurbish great songs ability to refurbish great songs through a melding of various ethnic and popular styles. Here, for example, old Motown and Everly Brothers' standards are transformed into magnificent reggae; 'Mercury Blues' becomes raging rock'n'roll ... and so on and so on.

Which only accounts for half the album. There's also a superb bunch of new numbers: two cowritten by Lindley and three from the bizarre wit of someone named 'Frizz' Fuller.

Despite the considerable diversity here, the overall sound is primarily tex-mex. The band is everything one could wish for and, although handling all critics and the same could wish for and, although the same could wish the same could be same to be some could b handling all guitars and vocals, Lindley never obtrudes as 'star performer.

One superficial reaction to One superficial reaction to this album dismissed Lindley as 'doing a Cooder', but the fact is that both men have been steeped in this music for decades. El Rayo-X is no gimmicky patiche, but the result of an abiding and irreverent love. It's also an unalloyed delight. Peter Thomson



Ray Columbus



Grace Jones Nightclubbing Island

Grace Jones is an unshamedly sexual animal. She flaunts her

sexuality to her own advantage, and some say she lays it on a bit thick, but that's their prob-

lem, not hers. Grace is owned by nobody, and in today's hypocritical permissive society, her attitudes are positively healthy.

Nightclubbing takes up where

Warm Leatherette left off. Sleazy, greasy, dirty funk, with an earthy sophistication that is

endearing and very human.

The title track is, of course, the David Bowie/Iggy Pop composition, which Grace deadpans beautifully. If Iggy intended the song to be tongue-incheely, then Grace has cer-

in-cheek, then Grace has certainly got the message. She turns Bill Withers' 'Use Me' into

a sexual tour de force that its

writer never realised, and her own 'Feel Up' is an aural orgasm, full of suggestive vocal

backchat and percussive heavy

plays guitar. Robbie Shake-speare and Sly Dunbar are also present, using the same distinctive rhythmic touches they gave to Black Uhuru's Sinsemilla. They lift funk out of the same identikit mire that was

Grace Jones just slays me.
An unforgettable face, a voice like crude oil, and not a hangup

Duncan Campbell

The Jim Carroll Band Catholic Boy

Jim Carroll has enjoyed more American rock magazine attention than any new act of the last 12 months. Catholic Boy is

last 12 months. Catholic Boy is ostensibly the reason but, in actuality, the focus is more often his background — it's such damn good copy.

Carroll is a 31-year-old poet and ex-junkie, New York street-kid. So what else is new? So Carroll wrote about it as he lived it. His Basketball Diaries, from ages 12 to 15, is a fast, from ages 12 to 15, is a fast, absorbingly trashy record of absorbingly trashy record of the decline of a wiseass kid with a love of words, sex, and a future as an athlete, into just another hustling doper. Its republishing last year laid the basis for a cult. Even Keef Pichard lurched in for a circ Richard lurched in for a gig.

Carroll, it seems, has known everyone who's hip. It was good friend Patti Smith who first interested him in fusing his poetry with rock. The track

'Crow' is a tribute to her.

Setting aside all notions of street credentials and media hype, is Catholic Boy worth the attention? Very definitely. Its precedents lie in the work of Jim Morrison, Iggy, Lou Reed and David Johansen. The band's no-frills approach seems designed to force the words up. designed to force the words up front, but Carroll's bleak, surreal imagery has an intense instinctual power too. This is rock/poetry for the guts first. Reviewers of *Catholic Boy*

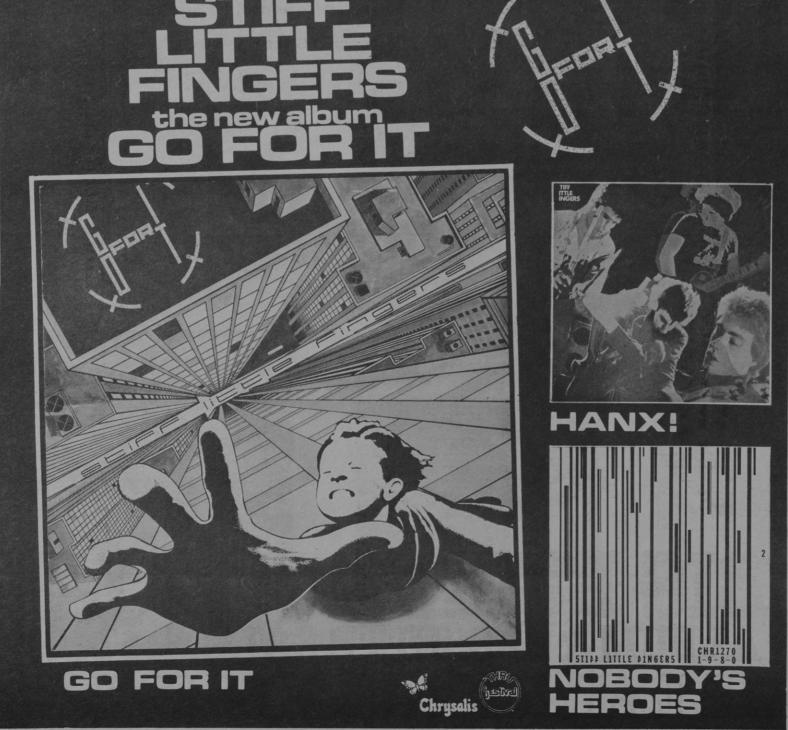
have tended to concentrate on the title track, the American single 'People Who Died' and the eerie 'City Drops Into The Night'. These tracks are cer-tainly powerful but by no means overshadow the rest of the album.

Live, the Carroll Band can be devastating. After a gig in San Francisco, I was exhausted by the amphetamine-paced on-slaught of block-chord guitars combined with Carroll's per-

sonal mystique. Whether you regard Carroll as hipster-angel or merely another druggie delinquent, you can't ignore the fact that Catholic Boy is dynamite rock'n'roll. It will stand.
Footnote: Basketball Diaries is till unavailable in New

Is still unavailable in New Zealand. If you're interested then harass your local book-distributer. Carroll's 1974 Pulitzer-nominated volume of poetry, Living at the Movies is currently out of print.

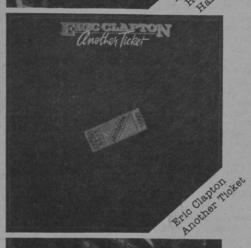
Peter Thomson



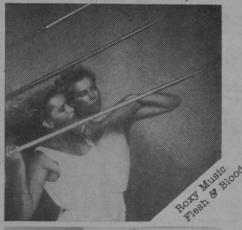


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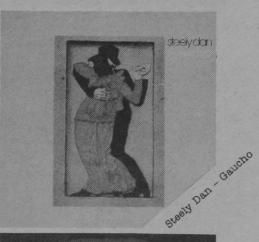




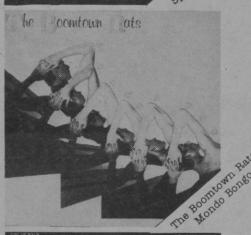


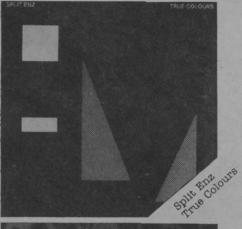


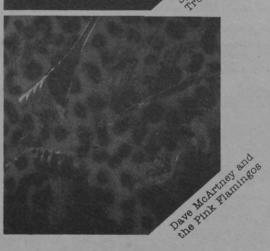












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Rip It Up / July 1981 13



Chryssie and the boys

Devo Live Warner Bros Pretenders **Extended Play**

Two half-album pot-boilers from WEA, the live Devo set originally being a four-track promotional item in America (the two added tracks are 'Planet Earth' and 'Girl U Want') and the Pretenders' five-track EP intended no doubt to remind the fickle ever-changing rock punter that the band is still in fact around, absence of followup album notwithstanding.

Devo don't spring any sur-prises live. 'Be Stiff' is the only track not off the most successful Freedom Of Choice album, though that record's title track appears here instrumentally as aconcert-opener. A propulsive drum beat allows you to partially ignore the one-finger dynamics on Side One, and happily the guitar player is let loose more on the other side. 'Gates Of Steel' heading off the much loved 'Whip It' as the EP's peak. Recorded in San Francisco a year ago *Live* is a satisfactory if hardly revelatory reaffirmation of the band's current strength.
The Prentenders'

most appetising recent vinyl 'Message Of Love' and 'Talk Of The Town' heads their mini-album. 'Message' somehow marries foxy two-chord raunch with much softer turnaround bridge



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— good in much the same way Police singles are good. 'Porcelain' broods for a while before Chryssie Hynde again delivers a strong vocal, and over on Side Two we get 'Cuban Slide', where the band manfully (womanfully) tries to over-ride rock cliches in the Diddley-borrowed beat, and a live version of 'Precious', one of a number of strong tracks from that first album. Roy Colbert

Cimarons Freedom Street

British reggae has come into its own since the 1970s. The start of its maturity can probably be traced back to 1972, when the Wailers arrived in Britain, and Catch A Fire was recorded. Among those called in to help out were the Cimarons.

This West London band has struggled ever since — signed briefly with Polydor, later dropped because of poor sales. All are fine musicians but All are fine musicians, but having largely recorded other people's material in the past, they are now having difficulty writing their own.

They can't hope to assimilate the 'roots' feel of the Jamaicans, so they aim more for the sweeter 'lovers rock' style which is more popular with the British blacks. Best example here is 'Ready For Love', which lays down a very easy groove, innecent and catchy. innocent and catchy.

Where they get out of their depth is trying to use Biblical prophecies. Lacking the hard-core gospel grounding of the Jamaicans, they quickly descend into cliche. Songs like 'Ball Head' and 'Distraction' work better through concentrating on more neutral subjects.

on more neutral subjects.

Culturally, the Cimarons are far removed from Africa. If they accept this, they might write more satisfying songs. Duncan Campbell

ECHO RECORDS

Bruce Springsteen Boxed Set: Greetings From Asbury Park - The Wild, the Innocent & the E Street Shuffle — Born To Run

In the middle to late 1960s most record companies seemed to have at least five Instant Dylans on their books — a David Blue here, an Eric Andersen there, a Tim something everywhere. The early 1970s saw the search change to New Dylans, and Bruce Springsteen was one of these on his steen was one of these on his debut Greetings From Asbury

Was there a real rock'n'roller in there? It sure was hard to tell, and a wafer-thin produc-tion hardly helped either. 'Blinded By The Light' and 'Spirit In The Night' eventually became the name tracks off this album, but 'Growing Up' and 'For You' stand equally strong beside them in the breathless image-tumbling stakes, and perhaps understandably, the two restrained ballads 'Mary Queen Of Arkansas' and 'Angel' have weathered the test of time best.

of time best.
Album Two, The Wild, The Innocent & The E Street Shuffle came within the year at the end of 1973, and it was a staggering improvement. Springsteen was a good deal more in control of his craft now, the production a vast improvement, and the songs, while often suggesting the man had seen West Side Story three too many times,

were exceptional. There was a wider sweep of writing styles on *The Wild, The* Innocent than on subsequent albums, and the bit in the middle of 'Sandy' where middle of 'Sandy' where Springsteen quietens everything right down and talks about the waitress is one of the genuinely magic moments in the man's

recorded career so far.

Darkness On The Edge Of Town may well be Springsteen's 'best' album by conventional

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longer to get out, and was finally served up with like-itor-else media assistance — cover stories in *Time* and *Newsweek* and Jon Landau's

'best' standards, but E Street

remains my favourite.

Born To Run took much

albatross quote on the future of rock n'roll. To the album's credit, it was good enough to survive that advance guard, but it still could have been a lot better. The fattened Spector like backdrops glued much of the material to an elephantine standstill. It's a record Spring-

steen would probably like to record again, but, even at gunpoint, wouldn't. For all the delivery problems, Born To Run still dominated a million turntables for many months - mine being dominated in particular by the first three tracks on Side Two and the opening 45 seconds of 'Thunder Road' on Side One.

For 50 cents less than \$20, you can trace the early career of the man now up there for the critics' grabs (and still doing it far too well for them to pull him down), from the seminal to the almost-mature.

Yes, he was still writing about cars on album one. Yes, these records are essential. Roy Colbert

The Digits Dog Wrestled to Ground By Underarm Combat Flea Sausage Records

The idea behind the Do It Yourself syndrome is admirable
— especially if it's worth doing.
The question is, why have the
Digits bothered?

They are a makeshift, loosely-organised, occasional six piece combo from Wellington and for starters they've released a very limited edition album on

Sausage Records.

The Digits have separated their schemes into two parts.

The first part, being Side One, is devoted to ten poorly-conis devoted to ten poorly-conceived and recorded songs creaking under a variety of influences ranging from midwest American ('Friend Who Sits Beside You') to Cure atmospherics ('A Throw Away') and muted punk ('Perfect Evolution'). Being derivative doesn't matter, but the Digits seem incapable of using their sources. sources.

The second half of the album, Side Two, is a series of closelypacked jam sessions where repetition and aimlessness take control. The whole side has a time-wasting approach with vaguely amusing throwaway titles.

If enthusiasm and amateurism were all that was needed to make worthwhile rock'n'roll, then the Digits would be in with a shout. As it is, they've made an album from the best of intentions but have forgotten that other people have to listen

The Tubes The Completion Backwards Principle

Capitol

George Kay

I first heard the Tubes in a room about as big as Meatloaf's dressing-gown, papered wall-to-wall by giant JBLs, powered in turn by enough watts to drive three smelters. Yes, I told my

wild-eyed and bulging-neck-

veined host, I am impressed, it is indeed a big sound. Since then, I've craved similar assistance to appreciate the expansive grandeur of this San Franciscan band — and I've noticed, too, how their most fervent followers are rarely people with \$95 stereos that pick up taxi talk every time the fridge is turned on.

Props. An integral part of the Tubes' master-plan, whether it be an overwhelming stage act or, merely, an absorbing album sleeve. The latest album includes one of the latter. The opener Talk To Ya Later' roars off with a stampeding beat, fine hook, and a guitar sound straight off Rundgren.

Thereafter, we strip away the covering and find the Tubes borrowing a few tricks from

borrowing a few tricks from the REO Speedwagon school ('Don't Wanna Wait Anymore', 'America' and 'A Matter Of Pride').

But the sense of humour is still there. They sure write a neat company prospectus.

Roy Colbert

Phoebe Snow Rock Away Mirage

The Best of Phoebe Snow

A few years ago, American writer Stephen Holden seemed to have Phoebe Snow's career neatly summed up. "Though the stylistic collisions in her the stylistic collisions in her singing sometimes result in confused mannerism, Snow is a true original. Unfortunately since the debut LP, the con-

Mind you, that first album certainly was a stunner. Not only did this young white girl sing with a mature black voice, she penned strong songs with shrewd lyrics. From semi-jazz to introspective folk, her writing could range as widely as her

Yet, except very fitfully, Snow's work never reached such a standard again. As if in acknowledgement, she increasingly turned to interpreting the work of other writers, though still with only limited success.

In attempting a representative survey, this *Best of* selection has drawn from all Snow's recordings through to '78. Consequently, only two tracks from the first LP are included — which simply isn't enough. Furthermore, the clashes which arise from juxtaposing tracks from her various recording approaches render this album a

approaches render this album a very mixed bag. It doesn't really sound like a 'best of' at all. That title probably still belongs to her 1973 debut.

Rock Away, her new set for a new label, does have the virtues of coherence and consistency. Recorded with the powerful band Billy Joel recently brought to New Zealand. brought to New Zealand this is the straight-forward punchy album its title suggests

Snow is still primarily working as an interpreter and has chosen her covers well. If occasionally her voice may veer towards stridency in belting out the Allen Toussaint or Don Covay classics, the strengths of the song and the band carry everything through. Purists of course will always quibble over reworkings — Rod Stewart's 'Gasoline Alley' seems the most likely candidate here - but by and large, Snow's versions are

Perhaps the best performances are the slower ones, particularly her own wistful title track, and Dylan's lovely 'I Believe In You'.

One hopes, as this album tentatively suggests, that with her change of label, Phoebe Snow's talent may become fully re-established.

Peter Thomson Change Miracles Sister Sledge All American Girls Atlantic

Change are yet another of the curious concepts thrown up by disco. No, it's not a gay cop this time, but a bunch of funky Italians. All the rhythm tracks on *Miracles*, their second album and their first, *Glow of Love*, were recorded in Bologna, and vocals overdubbed by session vocals overdubbed by session singers in New York. Unlikely, maybe, but their debut was an overblown delight.

The singers were sacrificed to the giant-sized production, but the liveliness of the project erased all doubts about the lack of soul.

The second album, Miracles, marks a clear change of pace. Here, they steer closer to the Chic style of cool restraint. The drums no longer crack like whips, but shuffle politely. It's smaller scale and less dramatic, but the material is seamless enough to support the chamber

enough to support the chamber approach.

The new album by Sister Sledge — All American Girls — finds them out from under the control of Chic masterminds Edwards and Rogers, and produced by one-time Mahavishnu drummer, Michael Walden. He's clearly unsure what to do with them.

He convincingly recaptures

He convincingly recaptures the Chic sound on the title cut and manages one urgent piece of Euro-disco on 'He's Just A Runaway'. But the rest of the album is an uninspired blur of contemporary black music stylings. Disco at its dreariest. Alastair Dougal

The Devadip's devotees tend to be a breed apart. They're invariably guitar-solo freaks, and often regard other rock with distaste. Such an attitude is the source both of Santana's extraodinary longitude. extraordinary longevity and of his increased rigidity. Carlos' mid-70s freedom for successful experimentation seems over. His recent sortie with some contemporary jazzmen encountered significant buyer resistance (not to mention critical flak). Zebop sees him return to

orthodox formation and formula: the slow-tempo sustained guitar lines; uptempo pyrotechnics; el latino percussion and vocal chants; plus two or three pop-rock updates with an eye on the singles charts. It's all here, as proficient and safe as

Unless you nurse a particular desire to hear a Cat Stevens or J.J. Cale number, sung by a Steve Winwood sound-alike over a latinized rhythm section, you can safely leave this for the fan club.

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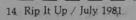
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Eric Clapton Another Ticket RSO B. B. King There Must Be a Better World Somewhere MCA

Tom Dowd produced Eric Clapton's two best studio albums, Layla and 461 Ocean Boulevard. He is back at the board for Clapton's latest, Another Ticket, a brilliant testimony to Eric's revived

musical fortunes.
The wonderful supporting Clapton on the superb live album Just One Night performs just as well under studio conditions. The lethargy that crippled Clapton's previous, American band is nowhere in evidence.

The line-up of Albert Lee (guitar), Chris Stainton (keyboards), Henry Spinetti (drums) and Dave Markee (bass) has been reinforced by ex-Procul Harum Gary Brooker on keyboards. Everyone gets a chance to show their paces, but the emphasis is where it belongs — on where it belongs — on Clapton's well-worn voice and ever-eloquent guitar.

In essence, the album is not dissipation (see the content of the c

dissimilar from other recent studio efforts. There is a mixture of country, ballads and blues, but at every turn the slackness of Slowhand and

slackness of Slowhand and Backless is gone.
Listen to Clapton tear things up on 'Muddy Waters' 'Blow Wind Blow' or his own 'I Can't Stand It' (shades of Stevie Winwood in the Spencer Davis days) or the furious rave-up that closes the album on 'Rita Mae'. This time it's for real.
That other old guitar wizard

That other old guitar wizard B. King also turns in a performance to blow the dust

off your speakers. King has tried some adventurous (sometimes disastrous) collaborations in the past. He has worked with rockers, jazzers and Philly soft-soul merchants. His work with the Crusaders was especially fine. He has now teamed with Dr John and Doc Pomus for an album that marks a new peak in King's long

The album's general feel was blueprinted in Dr John's City Lights and Tango palace albums — a sort of slow-motion funk, relaxed and rolling, a near-drone that is

utterly infectious.

Backing up the basic group of B. B. King, Dr John (keyboards), Pretty Purdie (drums), Wilbur Bascomb (bass) and Hugh McCracken (rhythm guitar) is a horn section led by Hank Crawford (alto sax) and David "Fathead" Newman (tenor). Crawford and Newman get plenty of solo space and they lay down some

lovely lines.
B. B., too, is in fine form. His singing and guitar are spot-

on.
B. B. King and Dr John — an inspired collaboration.
Ken Williams

BRIEFS

Sector 27 Sector 27 (Mercury) Poor old Tom Robinson, one of the few really committed politics-in-rock activists who made his point when people were willing to listen back in 77, but is now struggling with old musical ideas and a dwindling audience who've heard it all before.

His new band, Sector 27 just pick up from where Kustow and Co left off — polished and energetic, the ideal vehicle for pushing Robinson's concerned vignettes. Workmanlike he is, competent even, but as a songwriter he has rarely risen above intelligent story-telling and sloganeering, and Sector 27 is

Robinson has had his fifteen minutes in rock, but he's probably worth more on the platform. And that's where he belongs. Slow Children (Ensign)

Part-produced by Jules Shear of the surprisingly highly-thought-of Jules and the Polar Bears, Slow Children appear to be trying for a piece of Motels/Pretenders action on their debut Ulreent jerky and predebut. Urgent, jerky and pre-cise, Slow Children are at times artily indifferent towards AM radio rules, but 'Staring At The Ceiling', 'She's Like America' and the single 'Talk About Horses' all suggest there could well be room at the inn. Arresting cover. Ruts DC

Animal Now (Virgin)
With the death of Malcolm Owen last year, a vocalist of abrasive character if nothing else, the Ruts lost the crucial factor in their particular identity. New musician/vocalist Segs is competently nondescript, and he fits in well with the band's tight, disciplined song structures but without Owen structures but without Owen
they've lost their distinctive
edge. 'Dangerous Minds', 'No
Time To Kill' and 'Mirror
Smashed' are durable and
workmanlike and the dub
reggae weight of 'Fools' is wellintentioned if a little blood intentioned if a little bland. Satisfactory but not satisfying, the Ruts are still angry but don't sound it.

Quincy Jones, The Dude (A&M)

There's a cliche that albums by producers are smooth, wellproduced but empty affairs. And yes the latest from Quincy Jones, the master producer of Michael Jackson and George Benson, is smooth and wellproduced but it's also a largely enjoyable confection. When the material relies on the singer to pull it through, the hollow-ness of these professionals just doesn't convince. But when the groove's hot enough as it is on about half of this album, there's



Flowers, Mainstreet. Trudy Green, Neighbours.

Flowers Mainstreet, July 1

These Ockers are onto something. Time was when people in these parts knew or cared little about what was happening across the ditch. But Oz rock, like our homegrown product, has had a renaissance in recent years, and the ex-change of talent between the two countries has been healthy

Cold Chisel had packed Mainstreet two nights running the week before, and Flowers just about managed the same at their one-night Auckland stand, part of a quick quartet

of NZ gigs.

Iva Davies is a neat little showman, his coldly delicate features almost Numanesque, but with far more expression, especially when wringing every ounce of anguish from 'Ice-house'. He also did one of the best Lennon salutes I've seen, a

tortured, majestic rendition of 'Cold Turkey'.

Mainstreet turned into a sauna as Flowers tore through 'Fatman', 'Sister' and 'Walls', hit an early peak with 'Can't



Help Myself', and encored with 'We Can Get Together'.

Heavy synthesised pop is in danger of being done to death, but Flowers steer clear of the pitfalls, and have better songs Duncan Campbell

Neighbours Windsor Castle, July 4

You've got the wiry Sam Ford on guitar and vocals, Trudy Green on vocals, Rick Bryant on vocals and saxophone, Andrew Clouston (ex-Rodents) on saxophone, Ken James on guitar, on bass Poss Cameron, and Paul Kunac on drums.

The Windsor though not

The Windsor, though not packed to the hilt, is blessed with a somewhat serious, but attentive crowd. The first set, for the most part, is confined to a selection of rocky/calypso tunes written by Sam and Rick,

plus covers 'King Creole' and 'Cry Tuff'. It is extremely loud. We're looking at some of the best musicians around town, they could play anything well, The excitement only emerges in the second bracket, where there

the second bracket, where there are some great moments.

Sam Ford calls a break, announcing the Neighbours will return to kick the shit out of it. Certainly, there is an improvement, despite sound problems. Trudy Green, when she takes the main enot given she takes the main spot gives the words what she's got, and inevitably gives the band a colour, and verve, as she sashays round the stage, tam-

bourine in hand. One of the night's highlights is 'Jump Back Baby', where Ken

James plays sax in favour of his guitar. And Rick Bryant's just got rhythm coming out of his pores. When he takes the mike

in hand he's a classic showman.
The Neighbours warmed up,
and became less rigid in their choice of material as the evening progressed — Otis Redding, a Motown medley, and finally their forthcoming single 'Love is Never Cruel'.

The band's been together about two months. They're good, but somehow they still seem to be searching for the right combination.

AnnLouise Martin

Herbs Gluepot, June 25

Unless it's reasonably full, I don't regard the Gluepot as the don't regard the Gluepot as the ideal venue to see any band, let alone one fighting against a lousy PA as Herbs had on this particular Wednesday night. This problem tended to compound all the band's shortcomings. They couldn't get enough volume (and reggae should be very loud) and the overall fuzzy effect that occurred when more than one person when more than one person sang made them a little cocktailish in the early part of the evening. But in spite of the problems, they still managed to pull it off.

The band has improved vastly in the last few months with new bass player Phil Toms, and a fast-improving drummer, Fred Faleauto, pro-viding one of the tightest rhythm sections I've seen

recently.

The material is about two thirds non-original, ranging from a dull Heptones' styled 'I Shall Be Released' to an inspiring '96 degrees in the Shade'. But it's the originals that really stand out, with a flavour that's one step beyond pure JA reggae, with an obvious indigenous feel. It's a pity they don't play more of their own material as they seem to put a lot more into that than they do some of the covers.

Given time, and a decent sound system, Herbs could develop into something special, but they should make the decision right now whether to play more of their own songs, or to continue to do covers.

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Christchurch Polytech, June 13

This dance featured six garage bands (for want of a better word). With the exception of Ballon D'essai, all the bands were appearing for the first time in public. Twelve-88 were up first,

enthusiasts with a repertoire of covers from Velvets through Wire. They set their sights low and succeeded within those narrow frames of reference. A bright, enjoyable start, disappointing only in that if they can reproduce Modern Lovers, Suburban Reptiles, Iggy and the others with such ease then they should be looking further affeld.

afield.

Drowning Is Easy tried for more and succeeded less. Song titles like 'Pigs Are The Real Criminals', 'Spoons For Christ', 'Antarctic Cover Up' and 'Egomania Unlimited' are a clue. Their progress will be interesting, all the more so when they eliminate the messiness.

eliminate the messiness.

Ballon D'essai have made magnificent strides since their debut in March. They are pos-sessed of a guitarist, drummer, two bass players and a vocalist that doesn't exactly hate John Lydon. They played two sets,

LET IT GET TO YOU ...

APACHE

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU

testimony to an endless flow of original material, and throughout remained cohesive and single-minded. The PiL connec-

single-minded. The PiL connection is ever-present but they are always Ballon D'essai.

Mainly Spaniards were the triumph of the evening. Richard James (ex Stanley Wrench, Hard Sums), Nick (ex Lollies) and David Swift were less frantic, more composed than the evening's other participants, but their pop songs won over all but the most rabid. It's too early to be definitive about this band but they won my heart when I was expecting far heart when I was expecting far

Exploding Phone Booths made a special point of asking me to be nice to them, but in their self-indulgent, tuneless noise I could find nothing to be even vaguely complimentary about. They were dreadful and should reconsider immediately.

should reconsider immediately. To the Droogs fell the unenviable task of finishing off a too lengthy evening in a rapidly clearing hall. A three piece, they fall somewhere in between Twelve-88 and Mainly Spaniards. Their best moments came when they avoided the temptation to play fewer chords, faster ... George is a vocalist of considerable talent and I look forward to falling and I look forward to falling over them again soon. Michael Higgins

ON WEA

RECORDS

Playthings Gladstone

Goodbyes are always the hardest. The Playthings, seem-ingly one of the few remaining oases of wit and originality in an ever-shrinking Christchurch band scene, played out their last stand over three nights at the Gladstone. The split is an amicable one, but hard to take

amicable one, but hard to take none the less.

The Playthings came in contrasts. Nicky and Janine up front with a touch of evil and irresponsibility, seemingly ever on the lookout for that golden opportunity to run completely amok. Jay and David, to the back, anchoring the band with a quieter, more down-to-earth presence. Theirs were metallic pop songs with real live hooks; songs built around a nucleus of Jay's bass, David's drums and Jays bass, David's drums and Janine's guitar, and embellished by Nicky with flutes, guitars, electric drills and anything else that happened to be lying around at the time.

These days, people are only too willing to declare the possibilities of rock exhausted to the point of imminent death. And yet, as in the beginning, the role of vocals and vocalists is still rigidly strictured. As it was twenty years ago, the heads-down no-nonsense lead singer down no-nonsense lead singer still holds full sway. In those years little has changed. If the Playthings had achieved nothing else, they would still have won my heart for being so willing to confuse and explore the role of vocals. Jay, Nicky and Janine took songs, verses, choruses and lines turn and turnabout. It is our continuing turnabout. It is our continuing loss that few are so adventurous.

Michael Higgins



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Rip It Up, No. 48, July 1981 Post all correspondence to Rip. It Up, PO Box 5689, Auck. 1. Editor Murray Cammick Gang Of One Mark Phillips **Advertising Enquiries**

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Rip It Up is typeset by Artspec and printed by Putaruru Press. Thanks to Ngila Dicksen and Andrew Green on paste-up, Francis Stark for sub-editing and Deidre Burrow for proofreading.

Interested in writing? Send a 200 words, typed review of a new album or a live gig — we just might like it!



Phone Tony, Christchurch 428-123 (July 20 to August 5) if Run members are SINGLE OUT -NOW COLOURED SIT DOWN (stand up!)

Steve Bailey and John Catnall ... while in Enzed, Newz are

looking for a new soundman.

on Playmusic

able ... Jo Jo Zep and the Fal-cons have split ... in London Birthday Party have recorded a new single, 'Release The Bats' with PIL's engineer, Nick Naunay. Expect Prayers On Fire in Enzed late July ... en-larged Rumba Bar is a hit larged Rumba Bar is a hit.



Carol (Gurlz) and Phil Steel (Rhythm Method) from 1981 Pop Shot Show poster by Phil Peacocke. Phone 34-643 if your band is not yet on the 200 pic poster. The show starts August 24 at Closet Artists (520 Queen St.). All snazzy snaps of NZ rock'n'roll scene are welcome



Poster of the month is the above Terence Hogan designed Newmatics poster.



After last month's tentative beginnings, we can really get

I mentioned City Girl in passing last time, and now I have a copy of New Zealand Girl — and a pleasant change it is, too. Here at least is one young women's magazine which doesn't descend to the soft-centre porn of 'ideal lover' scoresheets and marriage quizzes. Instead, it treats its readers like people who are still

It spreads the subject matter around, too. There's plenty of stuff about local musicians and artists, the book reviews are sensible and don't sound like they come from the publishers' press releases, and the clothes and photography are often great (apart from a distressing habit of knocking the tops off the models' heads).

One thing, though. When will someone have the nerve to put out a magazine in this field without a horoscope?

Moving right on up the market, we have the first issue of a new free publication,



simply called Paper. At first glance, this large-format glossy seems to be entirely taken up with advertisements, but a closer look reveals there is Art at work here

Using a full-page ad format, and alternating with actual advertisements, various Auckland graphic artists and photographers have been given the chance to come up with the layout they've always said they could do. The result is unexpectedly intriguing. Not exactly a good read, and too chic for the coffee table, this would make a great first instalment in your high tech magazine rack. high-tech magazine rack

Like last month, we'll finish with a rock and roll magazine, though this one is also at the slick end of things. Trouser Press is America's leading Anglophile rock monthly, and a very nice job it does, too. It cleans up all the stuff that the big American mags like Rolling Stone and Circus don't even realise is going on in the world, and has the space and facilities to do impressively complete backgrounders.

The latest issue will be the first on sale over New Zealand counters and it will be interestcounters and it will be interest-ing to see how a public used to NME terrorist journalism will take to it. It has a couple of really worthwhile articles — on Costello and Byrne and Eno — and a whole crop of fascinating pointless facts about US bands who wish they'd been born in who wish they'd been born in Liverpool. Admittedly, it does get a bit suspect around the time when they give the Boom-town Rats a complimentary

full-page album review The magazine is a monthly and has a US cover price of \$1.50. It looks like it will run about two months behind publication — more recent than the British music press. Don't look to it for news or signs of the latest trends — stick to RIU for that — but it should provide a good solid read ... say, two bus rides and a bath's worth.

More Late News

New CBS singles are Dave Dobbyn's 'Bull By The Horns'

and Spaces' 'Disadvantage'

2 Mark Williams, Joe Cocker, Mike Chunn Interview (about Enz in UK) Part II. Frankie Miller.
23 Th'Dudes, Phil Manning Band, Talking Heads Interview Part I, Jazz II, Street Talk Bandfile.
24 Dragon, Talking Heads Part II, CB, Swingers

26 Devo, Knack, Mi-Sex, Wellington Supplement, (Short Story, Crocs, 1860 band). 27 Bob Geldof, Kids Are Alright, Cheap Trick Sup-plement, Sheerlux Bandfile, Ry Cooder, Radio Radio.

Radio.
28 Cheap Trick in NZ, Toy Love, British Invasion Supplement (Police, Joe Jackson, Blondie etc.), Terrorways Bandfile.
29 Graham Parker, Members, Radio Radio II, Sweetwaters, Mother Goose.
30 Sweetwaters lissue (programme, Elvis Costello, John Martyn, NZ Band Profiles etc.), No Nukes and

31 Sweetwaters Report, Swingers, Mi-Sex, and

31 Sweetwaters Report, Swingers, Mi-Sex, and Writer's favs.
32 Police, Split Enz Interview, Poll Results, Sharon O'Neill and CBS.
33 Fleetwood Mac, Crocodiles, Ellen Foley, Russell Morris and Marching Girls.
34 Tom Petty Interview, Street Talk, Virgin Records Supplement, Mi-Sex USA, Whizz Kids and Pop Mechanix Bandfiles, NZ 45s.
35 Kevin Stanton Interview, Quadrophenia, Bob Geldot, News and Flight X-7 Bandfiles.

Geldof Newz and Flight X-7 Bandfiles.

36 Neil Young Supplement, Jo Jo Zep & the Falcons, Ray Davies Interview, Stones and Cure

37 Magazine, Toy Love in Oz, Newz, Ramones.

X-7, Tim Finn on Enz plans.

38 Howard Devoto Interview, CB Return, Flight
39 XTC interview, Lip Service, Motels.
40 Martha Davis (Motels), Dave McArtney, Doors,
David Byrne Interview, Hammond Gamble, Bruce
Springsteen.
41 Coup D'Etat, Clash, John Lennon, Flowers,
Etton John Sweetwaters

Elton John, Sweetwaters.

42 Clash Phone Interview, Cold Chisel, INXS, Tigers, Jo Jo Zep, Borich & Tilders.

43 Bryan Ferry Interview, Sweetwaters Report,

44 Adam Ant, Associates and Police interviews.

Stevie Wonder, poll results.

45 Split Enz, Pop Mx, Meemees, Wgtn '81, Class Of '81, Madness Supplement, Newmatics, Herco

Pilots, Swingers.

46 Cure, Ellen Foley, Dire Straits, PIL — exclusive interview with John Lydon in London.

47 Interview with Jam in London, Reggae Supplement/Bob Marley Tribute, Madness, Joy Division, Who's On First.

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Pilots Reverb Room
Furys, Alms For Children
Rumba Bar
Hammond Gamble Gluepot

Pink Flamingos Lennon
Teddy Boys Rocks
Neighbours Cabana
Techtones Greerton
Visitors Westown
Steamshack Bellblock
Valentinos Hillsboroug Maceys Danse Macabre, Herco

L.A. Desams Hillcrest Pink Flamingos Macey D.D. Smash, Allies Ru Blind Date Windsor Tom Sharplin, Shakin Jimmys, Blue Flames

Shakin' Jimmys

Whangaparoa Pink Flamingos Maceys

New Entrants Lennons

Steam Shack Framptons Midge Marsden Bellblock Puppetz Rocks

Joe Cocker Town Hall, Auch

Rejects Hillcrest Coup D'Etat Windsor Park Tom Sharplin Milford Puppetz Framptons Pink Flamingos Lennons

Danse Macabre Rumba

Willie Dayson & Sonny Day Esplanade Overnight Blues Globe

SAT.

Bar (afternoon)

Billy Connolly Town Hall, Christchurch Today was so dull in 1974, that Keith Harraway set the world record for blowing smoke rings from a single

drag on a cigarette — 169. Mobilisation To Stop Tour Dance 5.30pm Mainstreet
— Herbs, Instigators,
Hattie & Hotshots,
Cockroach, Fusion, Al
Hunter Band, Hodzelmuzik
and Tim Shadbolt.

SCREAMING BLAMATICS

13

Rhythm Method Rumba D.D. Smash Station Willie Dayson, O.N. Blues Band Naval & Family Peter Wood Trio Gluepot Neighbours Terminus Pink Flamingos Quinn's Hey Clint, Drowning Is Easy Gladstone Penknife Glides Hillcrest Billy the Kid was shot on this day in 1881. Bet it was

Look Out For MOTHER

the country with Herbs from

August 1 ... Joe Cocker demon-

strating the fine art of standing

at the Auckland Town Hall on

July 24 ... the New Entrants

Black Slate skanking around

14 Visitors Gluepot O.N. Blues Band Esplanade Jam Session Naval Rhythm Method Rumba D.D. Smash Station
Blue Flames Club Mirage
Coup D'Etat Hamilton
Pink Flamingos Lion,
Palmerston North Screaming Blam-matics Terminus, Wellington Hey Clint, Drowning Is Easy Gladstone Penknife Glides Hillcrest Woody Guthrie's birthday. I wonder if Bob Dylan remembers? Czar Nicholas was executed in 1918.

headlining at the Rumba Bar, July 23, 24, 25 ... the Screaming Meemees, Blam Blam Blam and

the Newmatics getting in each

other's hair all up and down the

country ... the Neighbours play-

Blue Flames Mirage Herbs St Pauls College Blue Market Quintet Naval & Family
Visitors Gluepot
Garage Crawlers Rumba Screaming Blam-matics Terminus
Coup D'Etat Tokoroa Pink Flamingos Bellblock Hey Clint, Drowning Is Easy Gladstone

GOOSE DUCK IN FOR QUICK SPLASI

Hammond Gamble Hillcrest John Lennon's mum died in a car accident, July 1958.

Deros Gluepot
Larry & Ladders Windsor
Techtones Rumba Bar
Mirrors Hillcrest
Teddy Boys Club Mirage
Furys Lady Hamilton
Rank & File Ngamotu
Hip Singles Ashburton
Screaming Blam-matics
Gladstone

Neighbours Cook Mother Goose Shoreline The Pied Piper celebrate Alexander the Great's birth

16

within a week

Garage Crawlers Rumba Techtones Station Coup D'Etat Napier Screaming Blam-matics Victoria Uni. Hammond Gamble Hillcrest

ing a tour like only Rick Bryant

knows how to book - including

the Haast ... Palmerston North punters getting the Angels, Mother Goose and the Cure

16, 17 & 18

Sonny Day Esplanade Willie Dayson Globe Penknife Glides, Prime Movers Reverb Room Tom Sharplin Milford Jazz Naval & Family 18

Herco Pilots, Alms For Children Rumba Bar(aft) L.A. Dreams Hillcrest ocreaming Blam-matics Lincoln Uni. Pink Flamingos Maceys Hammond Gamble Station Sharplin, Shakin Jims, Blue Flames Mainstreet D.D. Smash, Allies Rumba Mainstreet Hammond Gamble Station

Coup D'Etat Gisborne Neighbours Gladstone Narcs Hillsborough Hip Singles Terminus, Herbs Gluepot, Veterans Maceys

Penknife Glides, Blind Date Mainstreet Hip Singles Town Hall, Christchurch Screaming Blam-matics Canterbury Uni. Brian May and George Hamilton IV share this pirthday.

> ROCKY STRIPS

20

Vivid Militia, Alms For Children Station Peter Wood Trio Gluepot Willie Dayson Globe Blues Naval & Family Rank & File Ngamotu Screaming Blam-matics Gladstone Mother Goose Shoreline Neighbours Canterbury Uni, (midday)

1/4 Acre Kids Rumba Bar lane Asher broke it off wit Jane Asher broke it off with Paul McCartney on BBC TV on 20 July 1968. Trouble was, she hadn't told Pau first. This is also Edmund Hillary's birthday — why don't you give him a ring

Family
Shooting the Curl

horeline Mother Goose Lennons

in Britain. Undertones' 'Positive

21

Deros Gluepot Larry and the Ladders Windsor 1/4 Acre Kids Rumba Bar Mother Goose Shoreline Teddy Boys Mirage O.N. Blues Band Esplanade Jag Jam Naval & Family Rank & File Ngamotu Screaming Blam-matics

Neighbours Cook Angels Windsor Park
This is both Cat Stevens
and Ernest Hemingway's
birthday. Which is pretty
funny when you think
about it about it.

Neighbours Gore Larry & Ladders Gluepot O.N. Blues Band Esplanado Danse Macabre, Hercos hooting the Curl Gladstone Screaming Blam-matics

Screaming bank and Shoreline
Mother Goose Lion,
Palmerston North
The longest rock and roll
gig ever — aside from the
Grateful Dead — was completed on this day in 1974.
The Animation played for
the best part of a week.

day (all this its perfectly serious) by kidnapping the juvenile population of Hamlin — except for the kid on crutches — in 1376.

Larry & Ladders Gluepot Mother Goose Nev Plymouth

Tom Sharplin Club Mirage Steamshack Tainui, Shooting the Curl

Mad Ranks Windsor Park Angels Maceys Techtones Rumba Bar Visitors Station Pink Flamingos Rocks Spaces Bellblock Hip Singles Ashburton

New Entrants Rumba
Pink Flamingos Rocks
Heinz — the Billy Idol of
the sixties — is celebrating
his thirty-ninth birthday
today, heh, heh. ANGELS RULE

23, 24 & 25 BBC Milford Marina Valentinos Lennons Midge Marsden Gluepot Sonny Day Esplanade Visitors, Mad Ranks Windsor Park Instigators Reverb Room

Tom Sharplin Station Rank & File Ngamotu D.D. Smash Maceys Big Deal Whangaparoa Mirrors Hillcrest Willie Dayson Framptons Lady Hamilton Racecourse Angels, Techtones Mainstree Scheme Rumba (aft.)

O.N. Blues Band Globe

ink Flamingos Tauranga

New Entrants Rumba New Entrants, Androidss,

JULY 21-25

Pink Flamingos Rocks Screaming Blam-matics Gladstone Narcs Hillsborough Neighbours Cook Mother Goose Sandridge, Christchurch 26

Screaming Blam-matics Otago Uni. Rank & File Ohakune Angels Palmerston North

Stadium We can't think of a single thing to say about the fact that Aldous Huxley and George Bernard Shaw share their birthday with Mick

Danse Macabre, Hercos Station Peter Wood Trio Gluepot Willie Dayson Naval &

Screaming Blam-matics

Kim Fowley's birthday Fourteen years since homo sexual acts between con senting adults was legalise

Gladstone
Neighbours Invercargill
Charles & Di Westminster
Bob Dylan falls off that
motorcycle. It takes Mama
Cass eight years to hear,
but when she does in 1974
— she chokes up.

Willie Dayson Globe Steamshack DB Gisborne New Entrants Westown Rank & File Tainui Mother Goose N.P. 'Wild Thing' tops the UK charts and the Meemees are born.

30, 31 & AUG 1

Hammond Gamble Gluepot D.D. Smash Windsor Park

Willie Dayson Globe Cure Town Hall, Auckland Mother Goose Mainstreet Franz Liszt died July 31, 1886 — too late to stop Ken Russell. Broken Dolls Station

Famous Five Reverb Room Valentinos Rumba Bar Mother Goose Mainstreet Coup D'Etat Milford

Sonny Day Esplanade Hit & Run DB Whangaparoa

Black Slate, Herbs Wellington St James The Concert for Bangladesh was held on this day in 1971 the centenary of the invention of DDT.

Broken Dolls Station

Mother Goose Mainstreet

Blind Date Hillcrest Road Angel Lennons
Puppetz Bellblock
Pedestrians Gladstone
Hip Singles Hillsborough
Neighbours Invercargill Midge Marsden Maceys Mad Ranks Framptons

Spaces, Coup D'Etat Mainstreet (afternoon) Black Slate, Herbs Wanganui Opera House Cure Sports Stadium, Palmerston North Mother Goose Maceys Neighbours Otago Uni. Dance

CURE

Rank & File Globe Shakin' Jimmys Station Rank & File Globe Black Slate, Herbs Ne Plymouth Opera Hou Volkswagens Gladstone Hip Singles Hillsborough Mother Goose Rocks Lenny Bruce gets to the punchline in 1966.

Volkswagens Gladsto Neighbours DB Haast Eddy Grant's Can't Get Enough' in stores.

Rank & File Gluepot Willie Dayson Mirage Black Slate, Herbs Palmerston North Opera House Volkswagens Gladstone Hip Singles Hillsborough Neighbours Gold Eagle, Greymouth

WAGENS



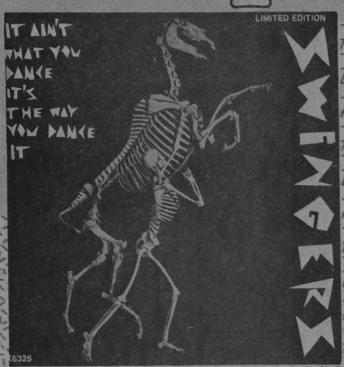
The last Cure gig, August 6 at Christchurch ... George Thorogood now with sax appeal, touring the Town Halls — Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland - August 14, 15, 16, 17 ... rumours about tours by Ultravox, Adam & the Ants, Stray Cats all in the wind (just like last month) ... and just like UB40 ... but if you really like rumours, why not big ones like Bruce Springsteen and the Clash in the summer? ... next month's RIU will feature the Clean, Psychedelic Furs in London and a whole bunch 4 of new Auckland bands moaning about being new and in Auckland, and that's no rumour!



Never ask for dark rum by its colour. Ask for it by the label.

ORTED 100% JAMAICA RUN

Independent 45s



The Swingers

'It Ain't What You Dance
(It's The Way You Dance II)



Broken Dolls



The Techtones 'State Of Mind'

Projons



The Protons Lights On



The Steroids 'Credit Card'



Otis Mace & Rex Reason 'Mecca'

Local Labels for Local Turntables Ripper, Bunk, XSF, Furtive, Stebbing thru' CBS.