

There's virtually nothing happening in Auckland at the moment. I think even the people up north would admit to that. Auckland is very quiet. There are one or two interesting younger bands but it seems to be pretty stagnant. Whereas it seems to be the opposite in the South Island. It seems to be thriving, it's great."

DOUG HOOD

While music in Wellington and Auckland flowered over the last couple of years, the South Island was distressingly quiet. Toy Love shone and died, Pop Mechanix became an Australian band, the Gordons and the Androids went to Auckland and there were a handful of singles from Broken Models, the Newtons, the Playthings, the Pin Group, the Clean, the Solitudes and a couple of others. But that was about it. Now, while the North has its problems, the South appears to have found its feet.

That new strength has been brought into sharp focus by events in Christchurch over the past month, as Flying Nun undertook one of the most ambitious projects that music has seen in New Zealand for some time. Doug Hood and Chris Knox came down from Auckland and in a couple of bedrooms and a few living rooms Sneaky Feelings, the Chills, the Stones and the Verlaines from Dunedin and Christchurch-based bands the Builders, Clean and Mainly Spaniards were recorded for upcoming Flying Nun releases. In addition there have been, or soon will be, records by the Pin Group, Ritchie Venus and the Blue Beatles, Solomon's Ball, Playthings, 25cents as well as a curious album under the title of 20 Krypton Hits. It is difficult to

remember or imagine a parallel for such frenzied activity.

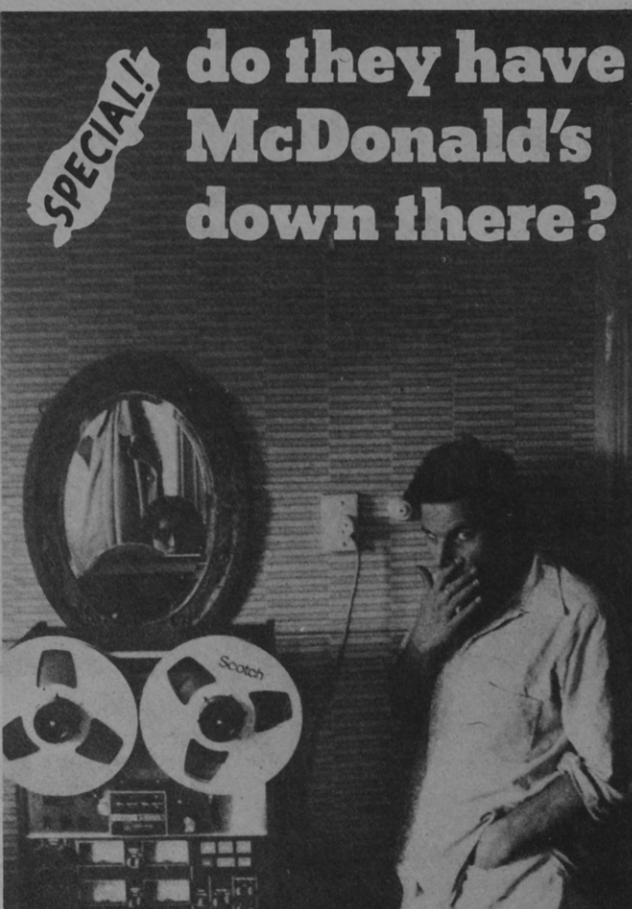
The Dunedin contingent will appear on a double twelve-inch single package, one side per band, three songs per band. Those bands are part of a distinctive and thriving Dunedin scene, the heritage of the Enemy through the Clean. For the most part they are the result of an endless series of mutating garage bands that grew out of the Enemy's audiences. They are fiercely chauvinistic and removed from the rest of the country in outlook and style.

Auckland, for so long the dominant centre in the local music industry, is a city that holds no charm for them. It is seen by these bands as too susceptible to the whims of fashion and trends and too self important. From a Clean:

"Most of the Dunedin people despise what's going on in Auckland because the Auckland bands come down acting like rockstars. They talk a load of rubbish and their music's a load of old rubbish."

The most commonly held perception that emerged of Auckland was a city with a ska band around every corner. In Dunedin they don't want to know about ska or the new romantics. The isolation of that city has produced a very insular and suspicious group of people with an over-riding attachment to sixties' music.

"The Velvet Underground are the cornerstone of Dunedin Music," (anon) — British pop and West Coast American psychedelia also figure prominently. The result of years of cross breeding and interbreeding amongst bands and onlookers, Dunedin is still more an attitude than a sound. Any



TEAC, Hood & Knoxtopher.

musicians that do acknowledge the existence of a set "sound" are quick to remove and discount their own bands from consideration.

Of those bands the Stones are the roughest in sound, taking slices of the Enemy, Velvets and the Clean. The latter have left a huge impression on them. "They're the best band in the world. Our ambition is to have them support us."

Sneaky Feelings are West Coast of America circa late sixties. The Byrds, Flamin' Groovies and Love, figure prominently. "When we first heard *Forever Changes* we went away and wrote twenty songs."

The Chills are experimenters but a pop band none the less, more adventurous and more complex. They'll be in Auckland in May with the Clean.

The Verlaines, complete with changed line-up and much improved on past performances, are the most conventional of the four in "rock" terms. Their continuing development will be interesting with a drummer who picked up drum sticks for the first time a month ago and a songwriter/vocalist/guitarist who admits to knowing very little about rock music as the result of a background that lies mainly in classical music.

To redress the inter-island balance somewhat, the Tall Dwarfs have recorded five tracks for a second twelve inch, *Louie Likes His Daily Dip*. It's a departure from the previous effort in that it's more straightforward, according to Alec Bathgate. "People will probably be quite surprised hearing it after the first one. It's quite different really."

As promised on the insert in their last single, the new Pin Group record is a "genuine studio affair." In an effort to shake off the production problems that have plagued their previous recordings the band travelled to Wellington to record and produce *The Pin Group Go To Town*. And was it worth it?

"Yes," according to bass player and vocalist Ross Humphries. "We're very pleased with it at the

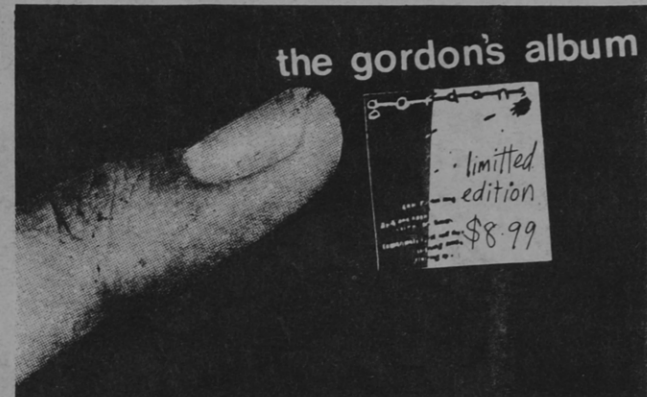
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Verlaines: Graeme (guitar), Jane (bass), Gregg (drums).
Stones: Richard (drums), Wayne (guitar), Geoff (bass).



Photo by Carol Tippet



RECORD FACTORY

- ★ 637 COLOMBO ST.
- ★ 719 COLOMBO ST.
- ★ NEW BRIGHTON

★ Stockists of contemporary music on record and cassette.

★ RECORD FACTORY thanks all independent record labels for their contribution towards the present healthy state of New Zealand music.

2 ace venues!

GLADSTONE HILLSBOROUGH

(largest capacity in Christchurch)

PA, Airfares, Accommodation available!

Bookings & Enquiries
phone Jim Wilson Ph 66224
or John Harrington Ph 266256
PO Box 2021, Christchurch



IMPORTS

We are specialists in Classical jazz, Folk, Rock & International Imports. Listed below is a small cross section of Albums available at present.

Statler Bros. Best of Keith Jarrett Solo Concerts (3LP)	\$11.98	Jimi Hendrix 'Rare'	\$12.99
Harp Music of the Andes	\$45.00	Pan Flute & Organ — Zamfir	\$14.99
Irish Cabaret in Dublin	\$ 9.98	Ella Fitzgerald — Duke Ellington Songbook	\$15.99
Ravi Shankar Portrait	\$14.99	The Who 'Quadrophenia' (2LP)	\$15.99
Vangelis — Imports due shortly	\$15.99	Beatles Tapes (2LP Interview)	\$15.99
Don Burrows at Montreaux	\$12.99	Dave Brubeck Greats (2LP)	\$15.99
Barbara Cook — Better With A Band (Digital)	\$12.99	Miles Davis 'Kinda Blue'	\$15.99
The Intimate PDQ Bach (2LP)	\$15.99	The Sting Soundtrack	\$15.99
Elvis Presley. Imports due shortly.		Woodstock Soundtrack	\$15.99
Elvis E.P's. Over 30 titles	\$4.99 each	Patsy Cline Always	\$11.98
		Count Basie 'Blues' (2LP)	\$15.99

MAIL ORDERS WELCOME

Please add \$1.05 postage/packing.
Please send a cheque/money order to
RECORD ROOM IMPORTS, PO BOX 2444,
CHRISTCHURCH.

608 COLOMBO ST.
CHRISTCHURCH.
PH 798-827

for the BEST in used records & cassettes

'the mousetrap'



43 BEALEY AV. (CARLTON CNR)
PHONE 61-737



Would You Like Your Band Recorded?

- 8 Channel Facilities
- Demonstration Tapes Made
- Mix-downs to Reels or Cassettes
- Mobile Live Recordings
- Low Hourly Rates
- Laid Back Atmosphere
- Sounds Engineered To Your Satisfaction
- Radio Airplay For Original Material
- Contact Arnold Ph: 324-106