

**Grammar Boys
Wild Matadors**

Rumba Bar, June 25.

I only managed to catch the last 15 minutes of the Wild Matadors' set. Couple of rockabilly tracks, a T Rex cover, and then to close, a wonderful footstomping version of Gary Glitter's 'Rock 'n' Roll'.

The Grammar Boys are the remnants of one of Auckland's semi-cult bands of last year which played infrequently, released a single, made an ad for TV, then sank without a trace, until now. Out of the ashes of that band

comes the Grammar Boys, with a newly-adopted serious attitude to their profession. They are Simon Alexander (vocals, guitar), Geoff Martin (bass, vocals) and Martin Williams (drums, vocals).

Unfortunately, their debut was marred by the almost total lack of monitors, so their sound (and their audience) suffered accordingly. Their set coupled originals with covers of Beatles and XTC, amongst others.

After a short break to try and do something about the sound quality, they bounced back with the quirky 'Incognito' and the most fully realised original of the night, 'Are You Happy Now?' And yes, they did do 'Only You Tonight', and no, they didn't do 'Milk's

Okay By Me'.

Apparently Australia beckons, so if they tighten up their sound and write more songs in the calibre of 'Are You Happy Now?' they should do well.

Footnote: The advertisement in the paper said the Garage Crawlers were playing as well. Did I miss them?
Barry Morris

This Sporting Life, Nocturnal Projections, Fishschool, Coalition, Silly.

St Benedicts Hall, July 2.

In a big old wooden hall, five bands took to the stage, some with a vengeance, only to be swallowed up by a black hole of echo and dis-

tortion. With the edge blunted, the promise of any insight or enjoyment went out the window — this seemed to suit the primal scream of Silly, right down to the ground.

Opens the Nocturnal Projections kept it simple, their all original set was paced fast and furious. As Peter Jefferies doesn't warble or scream the NPs have been lumped with a Joy Division tag, and while to an extent derivative, nothing could be further from the truth. The NPs are a band I'd pay money to see any day.

This Sporting Life made the most sense, penetrating the pea soup occasionally. Where their set at the Reverb Room a couple of weeks ago hung wildly on the

verge of chaos, such tension was gone to the wind here.

The rest of the night was taken up by newer bands, Fishschool (Kevin Hawkins, Jessica Walker, Chris Plimmer) and Coalition. Bored teenagers are still with us behind this brand of cacophony.

Bending over backwards to please their peers is only a hindrance.

Comperes being the rage these days, Chris Knox generally looned about stealing everybody else's limelight, but provided much needed comic relief.
Mark Moss



Platinum Pictures

Two Moving Pictures, complete with mirror shades — ideal indoors — visited Auckland early June to tell the story of a triple platinum album, and a single and album holding number one simultaneously for several weeks, in Australia. Present are Alex Smith (vocals), Andrew Thompson (sax).

The single 'What About Me' and album *Days of Innocence* were No. 1 the night Moving Pictures embarked on a support tour with Elton John. However 'Bustin' Loose' was their first single.

"We really wanted people to realize we were a rock and roll band first and foremost, whereas if we'd released 'What About Me' first, people would've seen us as another Air Supply," says Alex.

"'What About Me' was released first in New Zealand because the song's success is proven, and it's probably not worth releasing a single that just bubbles under."

'Bustin' Loose' is strongly reminiscent of Springsteen, but Alex denies that the man has an overriding, dare I say, influence.

"We have keyboards and saxophone, and there are certain sounds I'm aiming towards. He's playing white rhythm and blues and it's basically the same thing I'm playing. People come and hear us and they see the line-up — a big guy on saxophone and a little guy jumping around with a telecaster and they relate it to Springsteen, but there's just as strong an influence from Pete Townshend, Van Morrison and Graham

Parker. The importance of Springsteen to me is what he's done for rock and roll in bringing it back to the people, playing to an audience instead of over their heads."

Alex is the band's chief lyricist, although other Moving Pictures members contribute. 'What About Me' was written by guitarist Garry Frost. The songs are about romance, hard times and "stuff".

"It's just a silly phase I'm going through," Alex jokes. "The songs are just things I see, have felt, or have watched other people go through. I try and write them in as universal manner as possible."

"The only theme I find through all of them is summed up in 'Bustin' Loose'. If you don't try, if you don't take that one step you'll just sit and think about it for the rest of your life, shake your head and say why didn't I do it when I had the chance."

Part of the band's fame and glory must rest with their live performance. The most recent Moving Pictures tour with the Church was a huge success. Billed as an under eighteens venture they played to crowds like 8,500 at the Perth Entertainment Centre and to 12,000 in two shows at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion. In Alex's opinion the Australian scene is the healthiest it's ever been.

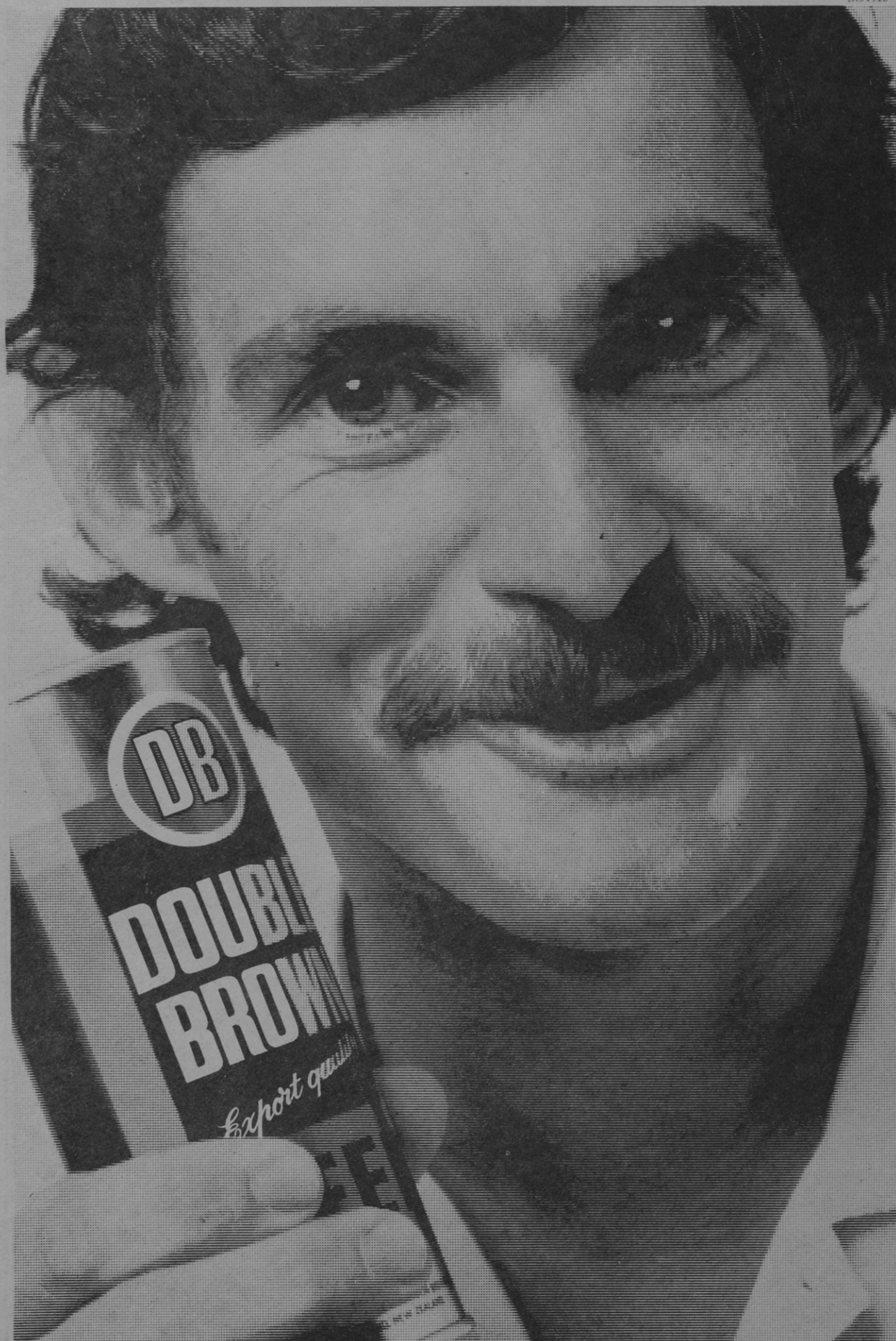
"It used to be that all the push went behind international product, but now local artists are being pushed just as much, if not more than the imported bands."

The band record their second album this month. They may do some NZ dates. I make the mistake of asking if they'll follow in Chisel's footsteps to the USA.

"We'll make our own footsteps to the States," Alex retorts. *Days of Innocence* could well be released there in September.

AnnLouise Martin

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