

LIVE

Netherworld Dancing Toys My Three Sons, En Can MA Gladstone, August 21

My Three Sons (and a daughter) don't fall into any of the neat categories the Christchurch music scene has established for itself. Singer-guitarist Bevan Rapson always said he wanted the band to sound like Dave Edmunds. They don't.

Rapson has the band's entire quota of stage presence. He sweated, shut his eyes and sang as hard as he could. His lyrics are built through a constant process of improvisation and evolution, even on stage. This is how a song called 'Gladstone' can be about the Crucifixion.

Rapson's voice is coarse, strong and occasionally tuneful. Bassist Bruce Findlay's tenor is an ideal harmony and should be used more often. Deb's sweet, jazzy sax is an ideal contrast to Rapson's earthiness. Her break in 'Look Away' was heavenly.

Some of the songs were just too clumsy, however. They are capable of better and will achieve it. Watch them next time.

En Can MA weren't supposed to play, they just went backstage and asked if they could do a couple of songs. They were loud, arrogant ('This song is called ... 'Eat Shit'') and played too long. I liked them.

Netherworld Dancing Toys' name made them sound like some sort of third-rate Danse Macabre. To be approached with trepidation? No fear. NTD are a Dunedin soul band. Dexys take their place alongside Sam and Dave and Wilson Pickett among the covers.

The crowd loved NTD, the dancefloor was full before the end of the first set. All kinds of dancers, from the hip to the

decidedly non-hip.

The trouble with being a soul band is that you gotta have soul. NTD didn't always. They were thoroughly genuine, just sometimes a shade wimpy. Songs like 'Midnight Hour' fizzed where they should have burned. Guitarist Malcolm Black should be doing most of the singing. His was the strong voice.

Highlights included Sam and Dave's 'Hold On, I'm Coming', a great 'Louie Louie' and 'Where Are the Flowers?' by guitarist Nick Sampson. The horn section was excellent.

NTD were good, honest fun. I'd go and see them any day of the week. But young soul rebels? Nah. Russell Brown

Urbs, Bombers

Windsor, August 25.

The Bombers are Deineke Janson (guitar), Webster (bass), Larry DeZoete (drums) and Sonja Waters (ex Instigators, keyboards). They are the original Bombers who debuted over a year ago, except Sonja, who joined about three months back.

Despite having strong frontpersons, the band were messy and the sound wasn't that good. However, playing to about 25 people on a Wednesday night can't be that inspiring and judging from previous nights they are capable of better things.

Urbs won the 'Best Band' title in this year's Christchurch Battle of the Bands. They are comprised of principal songwriter and guitarist Bill Direen (ex Builders), sometime songwriter and fulltime bassist Campbell McLean and drummer Malcolm Grant.

By Direen's own admission, it wasn't a good night. For a start, Campbell kept hiding behind the speakers. They started off the set with slower songs which tended to run together in a long, monotonous yawn. But when they hit their stride, they seemed to gain more



Urbs' Bill Direen, Reverb Room.



Jordan, Dance Exponents

confidence. The excellent 'Moderation' and a great mutated 'You Can't Do That' stood out. Barry Morris

Urbs

Coloured Pencils

Reverb Room, August 28.

Well, what a night! When did people last stand on their seats and scream for more at an Auckland pub gig?

What about the stripper?

What about Bill Direen?

What about Chris Knox playing the keyboards with a Fosters can, his elbow, his head? Coloured Pencils and Urbs playing for the last time in their present incarnations. Coloured Pencils — noise, verve, no monitors ... kinda like punk rock, remember punk rock? These guys are drastic, booping saxophones, slash/strummed guitar, overwhelming drumming from Rex Visible, forget the lyrics, peg it all on Frank Steentjes playing consistent bass all the way. Urgent message to the nervous system — get loose.

Best songs: 'Collapsed', 'Festering', 'Social Welfare'. The Coloured Pencils are Rex Visible (guitar and drums), Steve Marsden (drums or guitar), Frank Steentjes (bass), Pat Pencil (vocals), Brian St John (sax and beer bottle), Bruce Pencil (sax).

In contrast Urbs play so clean and tightly structured they seem almost tame to start with. But this band has massive cumulative effect. They start slow and work up to hysteria level, siren guitar and sustained scream on 'Accident'. Bill Direen is a giant talent as guitarist and vocalist — it was his night. He was ably assisted by Campbell McLean on bass and Malcolm Grant playing drums, with occasional Chris Knox on keyboards.

RECORDS

'eavy

MSG, One Night At Budokan (Chrysalis)

Cracking double live recorded just prior to the release of MSG. This marvellous album shows an ace line-up of rock heavies really clicking and enjoying it. Featuring two old UFO favourites and the pick of the tracks from the two studio albums, it's a positively vibrant, technically excellent album from Schenker at his imaginative best. A fitting testament to a group Schenker's now disbanded.

Uriah Heep Abominog (Bronze)

Original member Mick Box has resurrected Heep after an 18-month layoff, and with inspired performances from new members Pete Goalby on vocals and John Sinclair on keyboards, has produced an absolute blitzkrieg hard rock album, far and away Heep's best ever. Bearing little resemblance to Heep's dull efforts of the last six years, it's a glorious amalgam of Foreigner-type bombast and British heavy metal. CC

Girlschool Screaming Blue Murder (Bronze)

Girlschool bring in a new brass player and a new producer (Nigel Gray of Police fame) for their third album and emerge with their toughest effort yet. No tracks stand out like 'Yeah Right' from *Hit And Run*, though a great version of 'Live With Me' comes close. Girlschool could do well to spend more time crafting their songs, rather than rushing them out in an adrenalin burst in the studio.

Scorpions, Blackout (RCA)

Veteran metal purveyors, the Scorpions' ninth album reaffirms their standing after the disappointing *Animal Magnetism*. Klaus Meines' voice (following an operation last year) is back to full steam ahead and makes the title track the year's premier headbanger to date. A consistently strong album. Rudolf Schenker has written some real winners for this one, and

Mathias Jabs' stinging lead guitar is predominant throughout. Love the cover.

Ted Nugent Nugent (Warner Bros)

Ted's changed labels and abandoned his Tarzan of the Amplifiers approach to spend time constructing an album of songs with more variety than his last six put together. Unfortunately, without a loincloth and a slice of raw venison between his teeth, Ted becomes very ordinary. Even Carmine Appice on drums cannot save this dull outing. Forget the social commentary and get on with the axe attack, Ted.

Chris Caddick Aldonova (Epic)

Debut album from 24-year-old Canadian studio hand turned overnight superstar. With a Toto/Loverboy sound beefed up with stunning speedfingers guitar solos on every track, it's not hard to see why this album has shot to the Top 10 in America. Aldo not only plays guitar and keyboards, but also produced and engineered this very slick selection of self-penned tracks. Should appeal to everyone from Pat Benetar fans to hard-core metal lovers. A real winner.

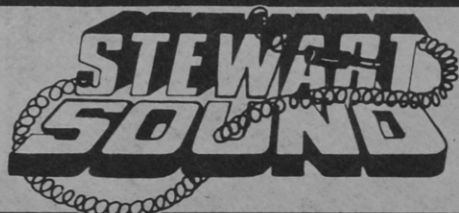
BRIEFS

Morrissey Mullen

Badness (Beggars Banquet)

Veterans Dick Morrissey (saxes) and Jim Mullen (guitar) lead a sextet through highly-polished, mild-mannered jazz-funk. Pretty much a British Crusaders if you like, although perhaps with an even lighter touch at times. Sweet fem-vocals here and there too. Good music for housework. Standout track is Stevie Wonder's 'Do Like You'. PT

THE BOOK AND THE TREES
- 2 stories
SEND \$3 + 50¢ post
to / P.O. Box 6972
WELLESLEY ST.
AUCKLAND
A Real Enterprise
J.C. & B.H.



- JBL PA HIRE — 2,3,4 way system, 1 or 2 way f/back. 31 Band EQ, Compressor Limiter, Chorus Echo, Pitch Transposer etc. *Systems to your own price or specs.
- ROAD CREW & TRUCK HIRE — Modern fleet of vehicles. Experienced sound engineers and roadies.
- LIGHTING HIRE — Full range of lighting equipment.
- BACK LINE HIRE — Amps, Bins, Drums and Keyboard Specs., available on request.
- SPEEDY SERVICE DEPT. — JBL Service Centre. Also service on P.A. equipment and instruments.
- AGENTS for JBL speakers and cabinets, MXR, JANDS, HOLDEN, JANSEN, SHURE EV., SENHEISER & ROLAND.

Contact - MARK STEWART
Bus. 52700 A/H. 52900

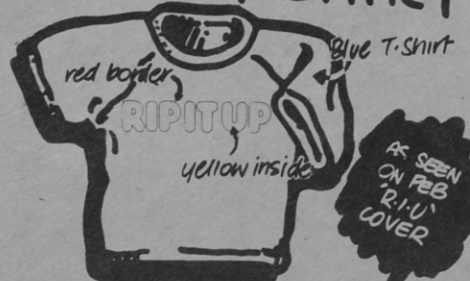
OFFICE .. 134A VICTORIA AVE. PO BOX 260 WANGANUI.

BLACKSMITHS BAR

ARE YOU A TOURING BAND?

If so, and you are touring the South Island either call us direct at Oamaru 49-892 Ext. 875 or Mike Corless, New Music Management, Auckland.

NEW RIP IT UP T-SHIRT



IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE BY POST SEND \$10.50 TO R.I.U., PO BOX 5689, AUCKLAND 1.

NAME \$.. ENCLOSED
ADDRESS

SIZE U FIT? [S] [M] [OS]

BLUE BEAT

NEW!
Men's Black Stovepipes

CLOTHES FOR MEN & WOMEN
NEW CLOTHES DAILY
BLDISLOE ST (BEHIND CIVIC)
SATURDAY OPEN 11AM - 2PM

SMALL ADS

HENCHMEN SINGLE

Henchmen debut single 'I Got A Right', send \$3.50 (includes post) to Cadaver Records, 11 Hanui Place, Massey, Auckland.

LABOUR YOUTH

Young New Zealanders working within the Labour Party for progressive social change. Join us by writing to PO Box 65-002, Auckland 10.

SINGLES AUCTION

Auction of 70's Singles. Send S.A.E. to D. Gillanders Flat 14, 248 Gt. North Rd, Glendene, Auckland.

WANTED

Excellent frontperson wants excellent band. Heaps of work for experienced, professional musicians. Guaranteed wages. Write PO Box 2021, Christchurch.

SIGMA MARTIN USA

The DR-28N and DR-35N are the first in a series of Sigma-Martin dreadnoughts custom finished at the C. F. Martin factory in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Imported components for each Sigma-Martin guitar pass through C. F. Martin's finishing, final assembly, and final inspection procedures. Experienced Martin craftsmen guide the instrument through each operation. From the precise fitting of the neck to the careful installation of the bridge, Martin tested methods assure a high level of quality.

Appointed in the Martin tradition, both the DR-28N and the DR-35N feature rosewood back and sides, and natural select solid spruce tops. A two-piece back distinguishes the DR-28N from the three-piece back on the DR-35N.

All Sigma Martin Guitars are covered by a 5 year guarantee from date of purchase.

SIGMA MARTIN USA
Guitars are now available in New Zealand at selected retail outlets.

DR28N — \$1100.00
DR35N — \$1225.00

If you need further information please contact the N.Z. agent:

LYN McALLISTER MUSIC LIMITED
P.O. BOX 39143
AUCKLAND