

Screaming Meemees Stars In My Eyes (Propeller) This is the best Meemees' record ever ever ever. (Whether it's the best Meemees' song is another matter) It's a fast, neat package of all the Meemees' trademarks you've got to shake *something* to it. The B-side of the 12" is an extended 'Day Goes By'. The cocktail dub bit is an obvious one but

this one succeeds well enough to make the extended version better than the original. The Meemees may sometimes seem to deal in gestures but good (not great) records like this vindicate them. **Export Lamb** 

Chicken On A Wire
Or Prime Export Blam, if that
clarifies things. A good one, this
– sparse and effective. The flip is an old Prime Movers' song 'Someone To Blame' and a Mahon song 'Be The Boss'. They're both very average

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MOTORHEAD, Beer Drinkers

War, etc Japanese pressings. DAVID BOWIE, Set

Spines, Punch (Ripper)
This isn't so much a single as a record with two songs on it. Two

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very fine songs. Punch' is a quirky, creeping little image, a whispered invitation to dance. Your Body

These guys get painted as prats

songs. It was done fairly quickly and unfortunately, it sounds that way. The songs aren't done justice in the way they would be with a regular band. Still, there's something there. I think Morel should

try again. The Kiwi Animal

Wartime (Brent and Julie Records)
Five urban folk songs? Perhaps
the best description. Two voices and an acoustic guitar. Two people here, very distinct, but one. A more reliable option than Kiwi Animal live, this record has both charm and faults. I think it's quite

good.
Blond Comedy
Rebecca (Mushroom)
A good song that suffers from being a shade too long, losing its direction somewhere. The impression is that there's a better song attraction to the control of the struggling to get out. They can do without songs like the flip 'The Time of My Life'.

Russ Le Roq Pier 13/So You Made It Now (Ode)

It was good to see Jeff Crowe get a few runs in Australia, still better to see him hold his form on the Kiwi pitches. A good long innings may be the making of him. Brother Martin may have been pitched into the big stuff a little early, but he'll come through Cousin Russ makes records but I don't think he'll make international standard. Actually, this record is so embarrassingly obvious it could become peverse chic. Russell Brown

Dire Straits

Twisting By the Pool (Vertigo)
Rock 'n' roll evoking memories of the fifties with clattering piano and honking sax. The exception is If I Had You' where the band returns to familiar tempos. Recommended. David Perkins

Mari Wilson Just What I Always Wanted

The lady who is single-handedly reconstructing the sixties makes her NZ debut. A bright, tuneful song with cleverly constructed lyrics and a crisp production. Ideal or radio playlists

Thompson Twins, Lies (Arista)
The Thompson Twins, once a seven-piece unit, have found commercial success as a three piece.
The female member, Alannah
Currie, is a New Zealander.
Fascinated? You should be, because Lies' is a song that will not only have you singing along, it'll have you dancing across your bedroom

Culture Club

Time (Clock of the Heart) (Virgin) From raging woofter to megastar, Boy George has had a good year. When you have such an obvious formula it's not hard to follow-up a hit single. 'Time' has a dynamic bass line, wimpy vocals, all marked with a rubber stamp reading 'HIT!

U2, New Year's Day (Island)
On the subject of formulas, U2.
A good band, but they are standing on the edge of a crevasse. This single from the album War (which has better songs than this) does nothing for anybody. That said, U2 fans should buy it, as the flip is the fine Treasure (What Ever Happened to Pete the Chap)', which ain't on the album. Belle Stars

Sign of the Times (Stiff)
After the awful 'Clapping Song' crapped out the Belle Stars decided to write for themselves. It works.

A better than average pop tune with more than a hint of the Mari Wilson. Expect to hear it on breakfast radio.

Kajagoogoo, Too Shy (EMI)
This song destroys my faith in the British record buying public. It went to Number One. If you could imagine Fashion and Duran

Duran getting together to make the worst record possible you'd still have something superior to Too Shy'. To think I thought Haysi Fantayzee were inane!

The Other Side of Love (Mute)
I had great hopes for Vince and
Alf, but the album has turned sour

on me and this single grates. Their lack of originality, thinly veiled by electronics, won't stop their ship sinking. Watch out for Depeche Mode's 'Get the Balance Right', Mode's 'Get the Balance Right', one of this year's great electropop

singles.
David Sylvian & Rivichi Sakamoto
Bamboo Houses 12" (Virgin)
Japan, Nightporter 12" (Virgin)
Two men, one from a band
called Japan and one from a band
from Japan (YMO) team up to
produce a hauntingly effective and
intovicating piece that deserves intoxicating piece that deserves pride of place in any modern music collection. A Japanese feel, ancient, yet innovative.

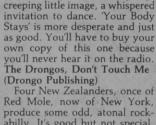
Nightporter is a lament, melan-cholic but not depressing. It features a beautiful oboe and acoustic piano. The other side is the uptempo Methods of Dance with the dynamic bass of Mick

Karn. Elvis Costello and the Attractions

Party Party (A&M)
This is the title track from a British movie. It leaves you wondering how EC came to write and record such a duff number. The bonus is the B-side Imperial Bedroom', the title track that wasn't on the album.

Makaton Chat Makaton Chat Federal State Chance 12" (Statik) Makaton Chat are a Northern English (Stockton) band who appeared on Nigel Burnham's compilation Your Secret's Safe With Us. This three song debut single contains electronic, somebetween John Foxx and Positive Noise. Not unpleasant. It's available from Trans-Statik Records, PO Box MT3, Leeds England for a mere NZ \$5.28 including postage

and packing. Mark Phillips



The Drongos are regarded as one of the top up-and-coming bands in New York. It's a pity we can't send over some of our really good

Grammar Boys World of Our Own (EMI)

everywhere but this isn't a bad bit of bright power pop. The flip 'Caroline' spoils things though full of unnecessary guitar and hackneyed lyrics.

This Way Out, The Grind (DJM) David Morel got together Sonya Waters and RIU's own Stefan Morris to record a couple of his



RALPH BENNETT (alias Sunny Monday) 'Daze in the Country Nights on the Town'

PENKNIFE

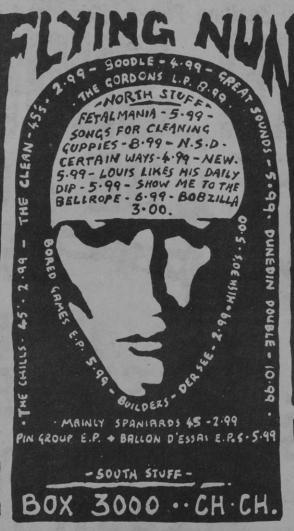
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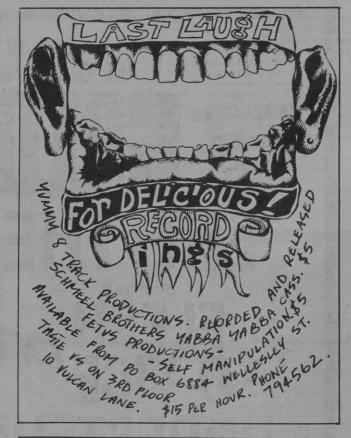
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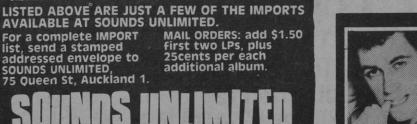
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