Alastair Riddell

Alastair Riddell and Modern Contours Myke Forse and Flatmate Gluepot, Feb 18.

Myke Forse (aka Mike McGirr) is a singer from Christchurch accompanied by Stephanie Toomer on electric piano. They provided a tasteful opening act. Forse's voice is not unlike one Tim Finn's, especially on the Enz's 'Stuff 'n' Nonsense'. Originals are few, but 'Garden City Overnight Success' impressed. Look out for their version of the Pye Isotronic theme.

Alastair Riddell has been around for years and one wonders whether he'll ever make the big time again,

he'll ever make the big time again, but with the current electropop boom performances like this might do the trick.

Riddell's confidence on stage tends to overshadow the com-petence of drummer Simon Hannah and the band's three keyboardists. Special mention should be made of Hannah's imaginative playing which kept the whole thing together.

The album Positive Action was given a good airing and highlights were 'Let Her Know', 'Sex Becomes Love' and the excellent 'Dial My World'.

Last year most of the country's promising young bands split up, leaving us with the old school. Of this school, Riddell is one of the few to retain his credibility in 1983. Alister Cain

Netherworld Dancing Toys Captain Cook, March 5.

The last performance of the present NDT lineup was an event, buddy. They broke pub attendance records (two nights in a row) and delivered the clenched-fist horn blows that they've been promising since their inauguration eight months ago.

There were few twin sax and trumpet squeaks. Instead you got one in-tune, on-key integrated brass shout and a riddum section (Brent Alexander and Graham Cockroft) that was greased muscle. So naturally the songs were better, slicker, especially the new original 'A Change To The Contrary' and Thrill Of It All'.

Rillstone and Perry have left so now it's time for reorganisation. Possibly keyboards? Whatever, they'll be back, bet on it. George Kay

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what we did on our holidays ...

Simon and Garfunkel Western Springs, Feb 18

To say one went along for the backing group is a bit like claiming to buy *Penthouse* for the articles. But how often do we get the chance to see a top-notch, ten piece band? What I should have realised was that, in being strictly confined to the S&G format, those musicians would rarely move beyond second

gear.
Luckily there was a handful of Luckily there was a handful of songs where they did get to show their paces: '50 Ways', 'Still Crazy', 'Late In The Evening', 'Maybelline' and Little Richard's tribute to this magazine. These numbers also showed — apart from the fact that Paul and Artie shouldn't attempt Little Richard — how few in the 40,000 strong crowd wanted to dance. Judging by the applause, a large section of the audience thought Garfunkel's 'Bright Eyes' one of the evening's highlights.

Garfunkel, of course, remains the archetypal wimp. (His only real justification for being there is to sing harmonies and during the first half-hour these were painfully

first half-hour these were painfully off.) It is sad that Garfunkel's off.) It is sad that Garfunkel's name, tagged on to Simon's, should occasion larger crowds than if Paul were to tour alone, because undoubtedly, Simon's most mature work has been done in his subsequent solo career. In contrast to his colleague's stiff approach, Simon seemed at ease, willing to slightly vary his melodies and vocal delivery. Unfortunately his relaxed approach and pianist

his relaxed approach and pianist Richard Tee's few moments of improvisation were virtually the evening's only elements of spontaneity. It was a concert characterized by no surprises. Peter Thomson

Broom Valley Festival Dunedin, March 5.

The fourth, and most successful, of Hank Van Der Vis's homegrown festivals featured a mixture of Dunedin and ChCh rock n'roll.

Opening the proceedings, Christchurch's Toerag came on like a veteran of bootboy wars. A bad unbalanced sound and bad songs made it easy for the Pioneer Pog'n Scroggin' Band to provide folk/jug band relief before the second Christchurch act, the cheerfully named Scorched Earth Policy took over. This five piece, some of them suffering from good Scotch, played their narrative

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DRUMS

New Order doomsday songs,

some effective, some lame.

Dunedin's Blue Meanies followed and carried the afternoon. It was and carried the afternoon. It was their first appearance after a six month break. Tight and plugged into the trash/beat pop of the sixties, guitarist Max Satchell made sure they had the instrumental suss to dish up their originals and off-centre covers.

Gamaunche a respected three piece drew wry smiles for their humour and some admiration for their songs. Guitarist Richard Wallis is worth watching.

Wallis is worth watching.
I missed the Chant and Soft Parade. Maybe next month. George Kay

'KIWI' FROM PAGE 8
Brent says the cartoons are based on actual incidents.

"I like those guys, I just get pissed off with what they're doing. I've

off with what they re doing. I've had this sympathetic attitude before and it doesn't work."

Rather than openly confront the people involved, the two decided to incorporate their frustration into part of what they were doing

the poster. Of course the pair's attitude runs both ways. Several people associated with mainstream bands wrote the Kiwi Animal off to me for "they can't even play in tune" type reasons. Blindness on both sides...

The duo have also produced The Book and the Trees, a booklet containing two stories, one by

In the future, Brent hopes that he and Julie will work together even more closely than before, but at the same time each retain their separate (and very distinct) identi-

For Brent, success means simply being acknowledged for what he and Julie are doing. Their self-

belief is strong but:
"You feel a bit loopy about it

sometimes."
A personal breakthrough came a few weeks ago for Brent.
"I travel quite a lot, hitch-hike. When people pick me up they see my guitar and ask me what sort of music I play. Blues? Country? Rock? And I always used to try and find some category to describe it. But now I don't have to. I just it. But now I don't have to. I just say I play my own music — and that's the first time I've been able to do that Russell Brown

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