

LETTERS FROM PAGE 25  
facsimile of drug-ridden decadence for its own sake or is it part of an elaborate game of emperor's clothes?

Can it be that the virgin bride (NZ rock) that public and journalists first bedded a decade or two ago is withering behind the veil of lip service and dead horse-flogging that no one seems to want to remove? At any rate the toil goes on and we furiously continue to mix metaphors to guild the festering lily.

Russell Brown, who is responsible for more than one Wastrels pocket-soaker, likes a good fondle under the bridal petticoats, especially when the latest incarnation of the goddess is an awed member of his own peer group.

Mind you, we are all helplessly social animals and our friend-and-toeing is largely dictated by our needs for CREDIBILITY. Expecting any member of the lonely hearts club, let alone poor old RB, to tell tales on its pernicious illusions is like asking a baby to make breakfast.

Grimace (looking pensive)

#### Chris Knocks

How are you today. We are here to tell you about Chris Knox. We think he is so neat. He must certainly be a swell guy. We like his *Eggo Grater* album (shaving a boiled egg concept). Knock me out, man. We are so *wasted* about this record. It's hip, hip purleeh. And the way he puts down his audience! What a New Musical Approach! We also like the way he copies the Fall. But they are so new as well. Chris is much better than virtually any butter substitute. Where do you keep yours? The Jims Auckland

#### Yes, We Know

If there are 500,000 people in Auckland, 499,000 of them blew it by not being at the Joni Mitchell concert.

Neil Young Auckland

#### Simple Crisis

Tell young David Taylor, darling, that there is no way China Crisis are a copy of Simple Minds. Tell me which Simple Minds' song you're on about. Dave dear: 'Love Song', 'The American', 'I Travel'?

Look, sweetheart, they are both sensational bands and each of their records display shameless magnificence, but I find China Crisis' keyboards and synth effects only slightly in common with Simple Minds and apart from that ... Jim's Navel

#### A Fan Wrong

Rip It Up' writer Duncan Campbell replies to the attack on his professional integrity by Paul Rose of Propeller in March's 'Letters'.

Yes, honesty is important. I gave my honest opinion. Where I was sitting, the applause for the Meemees was indifferent to non-existent. I cannot be in two places at once and I noted in my review that the band were getting a response down front.

On the subject of lies, Mr Rose, to suggest that I was blind or blind drunk is a good example of the genre. Such puerile insults do you little credit. In retrospect, I feel I was kind to the Meemees, especially after seeing the film clip from that gig on RWP. I could have gone so far as to call them sloppy and self-indulgent. Instead I suggested, constructively I feel, that they should perform more and tighten their sound up.

Do you seriously think that one less-than-ecstatic review will have any effect whatsoever on the record sales or general popularity of the Screaming Meemees?

'RUMOURS' FROM PAGE 4  
ginal Era want a new bassist, ph Warrick 399,497, the Warrior Records 'Fighting Back' promotion is now on Queens Birthday weekend ... Herb McQuay has recorded a single in Mandrill Studios. Production by Sydney's

#### Richard Lush.

Days Centrale have joined Tomorrows Parties in signing a recording deal with Harlequin Studios' house label, Ze Disc Records ... Honesty Box are a new three piece with Steve Waister and Andrew Milne on synths and Mike Weston on vocals. They have demoed at Progressive and are looking for work, ph 583-289.

The non appearance of Herbs and several other bands at the recent Punakaiki Valley Festival occurred because the organisers, unsure of being able to pay them after pre-selling only 400 tickets, were forced to cancel them. Russell Brown

#### Dunedin

The new Blue Meanies members are Martin Keam (bass), Andrew Brough (vocals) and Murray Taylor (drums).

Ex Midge Marsden bassist John Dodd is back in Dunedin and he hopes to form a band with Steve Young ... new bands include Pretty Idle, Neil Henderson's band Going To Pieces featuring ex-Cruze Barry McConnachie and Steve Haggies' Blue Murder ... Stallion have a new bassist, Ross MacIntosh and vocalist Pete Weeda, ex-Powerhouse.

New records: Sneaky Feelings' 'Be My Friend', Netherworld Dancing Toys' EP and Stallion' EP ... Out To Lunch heading north this month ... Shoreline is being renovated and enlarged. George Kay

#### Wellington

On venue front the on again /

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 LEXICON OF LOVE, 8 NICK LOWE, 9 SUNDAY, 11 GT (Gary Thain), 12 RAT, 15 LURKERS, 17 CAR, 18 DNA, 19 TOO, 20 EYE, 21 HOP, 22 KKK, 23 ROCK THE, 27 ACE, 28 NINE, 30 EARS, 32 YMG, 34 OR, 35 SALSA, 37 DIEHARDS, 38 CAN, 39 NICK THE-STRIPPER.  
DOWN: 1 LYNRYD SKYNYRD, 2 XTC, 4 NEW ORDER, 5 LAST ROCKERS, 6 VAN, 7 DAY TRIPPER, 10 DOC, 13 AN, 14 TALKING HEADS, 24 OVER, 26 IM, 31 SAFARI, 33 CHANT, 34 OODLE, 36 APPLE

off again Charlies is off again. Former Uncle Alberts / The Club is now called the Sheaf and features live bands again. The Clyde and the Steinie Bar (formerly the Cricketers) will both run Saturday afternoon shows over the winter. Bands are encouraged to contact Graham Josephs. His firm Cosmic Rock Consultants books the Sheaf nightclub - ph 331-780 or write box 54-120, Plimmerton, Wellington.

Upcoming Jayrem releases include Unrestful Movements 6-tracker, Mole Manne and six track solo effort from Phil Bowering entitled 'Quiet Streets' ... Kate Walker of Naked Spots to take over the city's Flying Nun stewardship from the late Dr Z. Dalziel ... the Golden Showers punk festival at Easter Weekend was recorded live for possible commemorative disc. Event featured Johnnies, Riot III, Desperate Measures, Flesh D-Vice, etc.

Body Electric video for 'Pulsing' eventually made with record sales already around 2000 ... spied lurking with the Hot Gossip entourage were a couple of DD Smash members ... one Fane Flaws took the stage with Pelicans at a recent gig. He's just visiting.

Upcoming beneficiaries for the 22M Band of the Month are Tin Syndrome and Notre Dame ... from the people who brought you In Touch and IT magazine is TOM (The Other Magazine), a fortnightly gig guide with the by now predictable editorial comments. Les Crew

## battles of the bland

If asked what I thought of this year's Battle of the Bands, the obvious 'Arry reply would 'ave to be: "Dunno, I fell asleep."

Did the same last year and I was a judge then. Anyone with a brain would 'ave done the same or stayed away altogether - which most of them did.

I got there pretty late and in the state I was in anybody else would 'ave too. Stark Naked 'ad just started and I started collecting Bugs Bunny to go down the pub for the first of many rounds of beers. By the time I got back they'd finished and the Tryards 'ad just shown up in an unusually sober state (quite strange for these blokes). While they played I stole their (and the promoter's) beer and tried to convince Pill Schofield that it

was quite couth to drink beer straight from the flagon - I mean if 'Arry does, it must be couth.

By the time Auckland Dalk came on stage, I'd moved from the backstage area to the dressing rooms so I wouldn't 'ave to listen, but that didn't work. I just crashed instead. But from the two songs I listened to it made perfect sense why they won - old ideas done in an old way will impress old judges.

I missed Marginal Era due to the aforementioned state of mind - would quite like to 'ave seen them. Anyrate, my choice of winner - No Tag (they could do with a new pair of jeans from the look of their album cover).

'ARRY

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES!



**EXTRA 1**  
Split Enz 2 page pic history, Cramps, Toy Love (pic, last Ramones (interview, pic, NZ faves), why Spelling Mistakes split, Zwines Family Tree (2 page history AK bands 1977-80, by Simon Grigg), Cure, XTC, Tom Petty, Life in the Fridge, ChCh band history.

**EXTRA 2**  
New Wave dates (75-80), Last Weekend in Auckland (Newmatics, Pop Mx, Penknife Glides, Techtones), Kinks profile, mod Ray Columbus, David Bowie pic, UK Scene by Jeremy Templer, Newtownes, Heavenly Bodies, Chris Knox pic.

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