

LEFT FOOT FORWARD

Some gays have all the luck. Jon Ginoli, lead singer and guitar man with San Francisco's Pansy Division, is cradling a mobile phone on a ferry that's crossing Sydney Harbour on a beautiful day.

The Bay area punkers are overseas for the first time, touring Oz and New Zealand on the trail of their second album *Deflowered*. Ginoli formed the band in the winter of 1991, frustrated with lack of anything other than what he considered stereotypical gay music.

"I wanted to have a band that other gay people, who were dissatisfied with the usual gay fare of show tunes and Barbara Streisand, could have for themselves."

But, by his own admission, he doesn't always take a righteous stance. Like a lot of desperados who enter the rock 'n' roll game, Ginoli did it partly to get laid.

"I thought that might be a nice by-product, yeah. Rock 'n' Roll has always been about sex, so I would say that was part of my whole scheme."

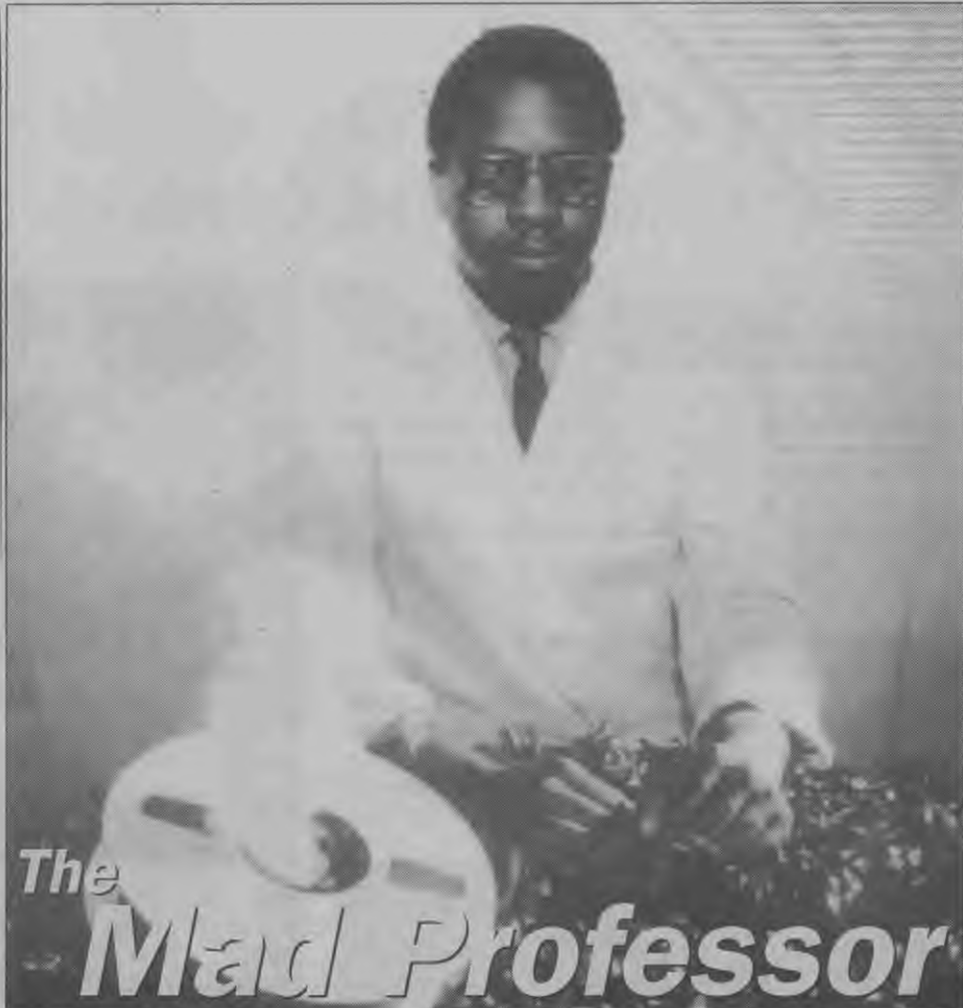
Pansy Division have thrown pop and punk into a pot and come out sound like Pete Shelley fronting Blondie with Brian Wilson producing. Lyrically, they're like nothing you've ever heard, and the titles of their singles — 'Bill and Ted's Homosexual Adventure', 'Nine Inch Males' — point to a deep respect for toilet humour. You don't have to be there to get the joke, but they still get a hard time in more ways than one.

"Occasionally we get accused of things, but I think after people get over the initial shock they see that we can write good pop songs."

JOHN RUSSELL



Pansy Divisions' Jon Ginoli



Neil Fraser, aka The Mad Professor, has just turned a new page from a very old book. This month the enigmatic dub/reggae producer tours New Zealand for the first time on the university orientation ticket.

Fraser's first musical steps were made behind amplifiers and underneath mixing desks, as a service technician. With these skills in hand, in 1979 he built a four-track studio in his house, and launched the now legendary Ariwa label.

Throughout the 80s, Fraser's stable of artists increased along with the size of his studio, and Ariwa scaled the charts with releases from Pato Banton, Sandra Cross and reggae star Macka B.

"Macka B is one of a kind," says Fraser. He's probably released more albums than any other British reggae artist. It's incredible that

he's still going with such velocity."

In 1992, Fraser slowed the flow of releases from Ariwa and left home, touring Europe and America, before returning to break into the remix market. His credits include the Orb, Sade ("I didn't meet her. Probably a good thing, I might not have left her alone"), and the newly released Mad Professor Vs. Massive Attack album, *No Protection*.

"I've liked Massive Attack for years. The songs they like are similar to the songs I like. They contacted me with the idea to do some dub remixes for them, and it developed to the point where it evolved into an album."

Keen to break out of the studio, he's out on the touring tip again, and is bringing Macka B, Sister Audrey and Nolan Irie with him to New Zealand. Surprisingly, he has no intention of taking in the greenery.

"No, I don't smoke or do drugs at all."

JOHN RUSSELL

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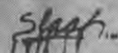
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