



New Zealand

CUNT
7 Inch Single (Yellow Bike)

Steel stuff covered in acetone — what were you expecting? CUNT are the Palmerston North duo of Claire Pannell (Froit Head) and Dave White (Lung). Their debut single is one of the murkiest, shittiest, most unintelligible, nonsensical, distorted collection of bangs and clatters I've heard for years, and is highly recommended. Send your cash to Yellow Bike, PO Box 586, Palmerston North.

STRAWPEOPLE Sweet Disorder
CD Single (Sony)

Pleasant enough sultry grooves on 'Sweet Disorder', from Masters Tierney and Casserly, while Leeza Corban's melody heavy, silky vocal rides over the catchy mid-tempo dance beat. Also features *Broadcast's* 'Wings Of Desire', and a jagged throwaway piece called 'Re-Surface'.

TEREMOANA Beautiful People
CD Single (BMG)

It's taken far too long for former UHP member Teremoana to get her debut single in the shops, but the waiting has its rewards, for 'Beautiful People' is a classic soul single. A straightforward 4/4 dance beat provides the backbone for her astonishingly natural voice. Unforced, but powerful, the vocal carries the rolling, flowing melody, and when the note is

held on the word 'great', it's breathtaking. The single features five versions, including the booming 'DLT Deez Mix'.

SECOND CHILD Crumble
CD Single (Wildside)

'Crumble' is a long way from the torqued out Second Child of old, but is pretty awesome nonetheless. Slow burning, intelligent power pop that comes with a knockout punch when the gigantic swinging hook hits during the chorus. Following on is the high-tension grind of 'Rattle My Cage', and the strung-out drama of 'Carving Out'.

NIXONS Basement Static
Cassingle (Pagan)

Very Radiohead-like acoustic pop from the Nixons first up on 'Basement Static', complete with a desperately desperate chorus that's impossible to ignore. 'Dirt Seller' goes ballistic from the word go, and a lengthy, atmospheric, suspense ridden jam called 'Higher' takes third place.

SONIC ARTS SOCIETY Sonic Noise
CD (Burnins Records)

The impatient people at the Sonic Arts Society in Wellington have released a 13 track CD, of which, the majority of stuff should've been left in bedrooms and practice spaces. The bad stuff ranges from the utterly self-indul-

gent noise-wank of Dress, to the pure screeching crap of Phil Death. Good stuff comes courtesy of the mutant, muddy punk/pop of Foisemaster, and the migraine inducing guitar technique-cum-breakdance beats of the Skitzoid Men. Otherwise, 'buyer beware' is the best summation. Available for \$6 from SAS, Box 11072, Wellington.

LICHEN POLE Spleen
Cassette EP

The noisy ideas happening on this four song cassette from Wellington band Lichen Pole are bred on the right track, but more concern is given to tricky structures and quick chord changes, rather than any discernible melody. 'Yin Swallowing Yang' is almost Drill-like in places, and is the most appealing direction they could follow. Available from 6A Chelsea Street, Miramar, Wellington, or fax (04) 385-7177.

BAD ACID
Cassette EP

This bunch tried to bribe me with lollipops, so you know where they're at. There's trad, heavy 4/4 rock riffs all over this, and they have great song titles like 'Waltz of the Damned' and 'Ticket to Death'. Ultimately, they're having fun, and that's the whole point. Write to 47/3 Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch, and if you're lucky, they *might* send you a copy.

BANSHEE REEL Lament
Cassingle (Loaded)

Lame folk-pop accompanied by nauseatingly pretentious lyrics and a singer so bad it's almost funny.

OKRA Keith Richards' Trip To Invercargill
Cassette (Dervish)

Great cover of an anorexic-looking Keith Richards clutching a beer poolside, presumably in Invercargill. Inside, 'Moslem Man' is punk-noise for bollocks sake, while the strum strum title track is the closest they'll ever come to a bona fide pop song. Side two's 'Steel Beast' is art-fart spoken word stuff over a one chord riff, while the brilliant 'Business Is Good In Hell' tells of two dropkicks on a plane (noise provided by vacuum cleaner) discussing airline food and heroin trafficking. Write to PO Box 3189, Shortland Street, Auckland.

JOHN RUSSELL

Rumours

AUCKLAND

King Loser's second album is set for an August release ... 'Can't Get Away', **Upper Hutt Posse's** second single off their forthcoming album *Movement In Demand*, should be out in June ... **Intravene** magazine are on the look out for bands to play at their Pod launch parties. If you're keen, phone Mark on (09) 623-3323 ... and issue five of **Shunt** is out now ... **Cosa Nostra** appear on a German ambient dub compilation entitled *Serenity Dub* ... Andrew Thorne has formed a new band called **Splitter** with Martin Nightingale of Jan Hellreigel's band ... the **Able Tasmans** are currently mixing their forthcoming record *Store In A Cool Place* ... **Semi Lemon Kola** are recording a three-track single, 'Otherwise', at York Street with Malcolm Welsford ... **Sudersuk's** self-released cassette is in the shops or available for \$8 from 39 Webber Street, Grey Lynn ... **Big Mike** is now managing **Future Stupid** who are currently recording their debut CD EP at bFM and York Street ... **Thorazine Shuffle** are heading into York Street soon to record their debut single entitled 'An Affair' ... **Pivotal's** new bass player is Blair Peachy. The new line-up will be gigging around town this month ... ex-Christchurch vocalist **Bic Runga** will release her debut album *Love Soup* on Pagan in June. A single is due in May ... **Superette's** debut EP *Rosepig* will be out on Flying Nun in early June.

JOHN RUSSELL

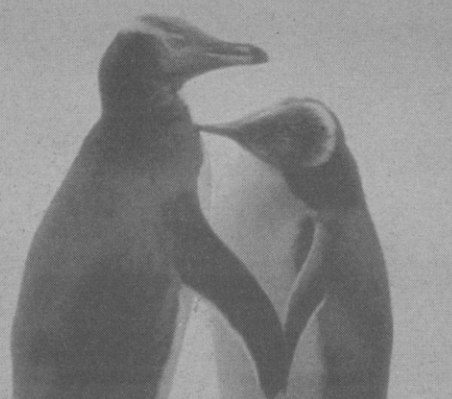
HAMILTON

BWA Da Riddim have split, with two members leaving for overseas. The band recently recorded 16 songs in one night at Greg Locke's Orange Studio ... **Contact 89FM's** recording studio, the Fridge, is near completion of a new Hamilton compilation CD which, along with 16 bands, will feature a 4 1/2 song EP by the now defunct **Dribbly Cat Attraction** ... **Blackjack's** new single 'Don't Have A Gun' will be released on Hark Records on May 8 and **King Biscuit's** debut CD will be released on May 21 ... a Hark compilation album will follow in June featuring **Tetnus, Tim Armstrong, Knightshade, Blackjack, King Biscuit** and others ... **Inchworm** recently turned down a five year contract with Hark and instead plan to release recordings independently. They are playing throughout the North Island in May (see *Gig Guide* for details) ... **the Romantic Andes** have changed drummers ... **Lovefish** have been recording at the Fridge for a debut cassette EP due out soon ... **Toyah** was recently appointed general manager at the Zoo Studios ... **Love and Violence** are back again, presently recording late into the night at the Zoo ... Mike Clarkin is busy organising the **Herringbone Shed**, a series of band nights at the Hillcrest Tavern. The first one takes place May 4, with **Aquarium, Inchworm** and the **Romantic Andes**. Then, on May 11, **Love and Violence, Control** and possibly **REAL** take the stage. The final night, on May 18 features **Captain Higaz, the Nerve** and **Nemesis** ... if you have any information to include in

the magick heads
Before we go under

The album for kind and gentle people.

Songs by Robert Scott of the Bats and Clean.



ROBERT JOHNSON

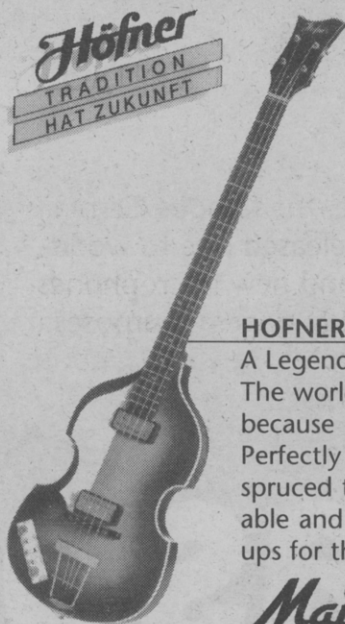
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