

Letters

Heavy Criticism

What I'm about to say is going to be almost as straight as David Bowie. I think *RipItUp's* promotion of New Zealand music is from too much of a heavy metal slant. I'm not saying these bands don't have talent (I lie), but other bands deserve to be given more credit (more time, more patience while they develop); eg. Tardigrads, King Loser, Guerilla Biscuit. These bands have the talent required to reach better and bigger horizons musically (it helps promoting them).

Giving 'loser' bands of heavy nature a chance is a waste of time, a waste of life; ie, bands who think a song should sound like a rhinoceros trampling on your head (just to be noticed) and lyrics are something found on the back of a Weetbix box.

These heavy bands will go kurplunk on their heads from playing music, while falling off a cliff. In other words, they create songs that are fucked, crapped nothingness.

RipItUp could gain fans by enlightening us (conscious people) with good musical literature; or would I be going as far as to say you don't want either.

I Am the Walrus, Christchurch.

PS: Get rid of those fucking ugly models in *RipItUp*. They don't promote, they degrade the clothes.

Floyd Feeds Back (Again)

Referring to *Fat Fans* of Wellington, May issue:

To the boy in Wellington and friend (existence doubtful).

I didn't expect such an amusing response from an obviously dedicated fan and the fact you attended the same school as Fat Mannequin (god, how I wish I was you — not). Anyway, to the point. This letter is in my defence, as I have offended so many people. So what, the truth always does arouse a bit of anger.

Your psychological assessment of me was amazing. The fact you have never seen or met me makes me hope you will try extending your psychic ability with further training. (At least I watched FM perform before I placed judgement.)

Why did I bother? Because they needed constructive feedback to help them mould an individual style and identity, instead of becoming Pearl Jam afterbirth.

By the way, the letter was directed to Willie and the girls, not some dicks who tossed off in the school toilets with them (and you question my intelligence?).

So, I'm 'just a sucker with low self esteem', but even if I was up myself (like you), Fat Mannequin would still eat shit on a good day, and I would still tell everyone about it, so shut up.

As for Merle (the silly girl) Thomas, if you want to see some real crap, pull up a chair at a Fat Mannequin show. Other than that, Pearl Jam fuckin' rips, so you can bite my ass too.

Floyd, Tauranga.

Mistaken Identity

Kevin List,

Thanks for the great review for the Wellington Sick Of It All gig. I think you would have enjoyed our set more if we had *played*! We were in New Plymouth. You seen Open Oyster from Wellington.

How about an apology, or reviewing some of our albums? We'll give ya 'em if ya do it.

Do it right.

Nigel (Nefarious), New Plymouth.

My Generation

Hi,

I am a hardcore motherfucker. I jolly well don't care a bean about anything. I smoke lots and lots of pot and drink lots of booze. I like listening to grunge rock bands like the Smashing Pumpkins, Pearl Jam and Motley Crue, and hardcore heavy metal bands such as Pantera and Megadeth. When I listen to this sort of music I like to jump around and nod my head really fast until my brain hurts. When I go to concerts at the Powerstation, sometimes I like to jump up on stage and wave my arms around so everyone sees me and realises how cool I am.

Yesterday, Mummy asked me to dry the dish-

es for her and I said: 'Fuck you, I won't do what you tell me,' and didn't dry them until she threatened to smack me. I think maybe the reason I'm such a wild, freaky guy is because of my hard upbringing. My family lived in the poorer part of Remuera for three years and had to do without many things. My father used to shout at me sometimes and one time he even hit me, right on the hand! All my friends, or 'brothers from the gutter', as I call them, have had really tough lives and none of us take any bloody fuckin' shit from anyone.

Craig 'fuck you I won't do what you tell me' Taylor, Drury.

90s State of Mind

In response to BB Lyons' letter in the May issue:

Moan, grizzle, gripe, blah, blah, blah. For god's sake, get a life man! Has your head been buried up your arse for the past five years, or what?

The state of the music industry is most certainly the healthiest it's been in years. New Zealand bands are finally getting the overseas recognition they deserve. What I see is awesome, fresh talent, springing up like fresh mushrooms everywhere; but according to you, New Zealand music is all over. What is finally over is the string of sexist, wimpy, glam ridden, poof rock that was force fed to us three or four years ago; ie. watered down, Z grade, LA hard rock played by Kiwis. It seems to me you're stuck in a time warp my friend!

Hey, wake-up. It's the 90s — y'know, liberal thinking, body piercings, grunge, Abba, techno, hip-hop, Generation X, whatever?

Please open your ears and mind. As Pumpkinhead would say: 'The lights are on, but no one's home.'

Yours,

Poison.

PS: If people like yourself pulled your finger out and formed a new shiny, bouncy, smiley band for all us to smile to, we'd have more top quality acts to pick from for such events as *The Big Day Out*.

Turn Your Radio Off

Despite BB Lyons' rather pathetic attempt at combining rhetoric in May's *RIU*, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my views on 'the state of the music industry'.

For a start, I am morbidised [sic] by the stigma and justification process attached to one's personal preference in Aotearoa bands. A typical scenario is when questioned of one's favourite band. To most people, an interest in Kiwi music results in a combined consensus ruling — crap! When you look at this realistically, BB, you would conclude that music is the art of expressing or stirring emotion by combination of sounds. Therefore, it is an activity designed for pleasure to the listener.

Instead of trivialising and degrading popular bands, try this simple technique to overcome your neurotic condition. If any of the bands you previously mentioned having distaste towards should receive airplay on your transistor, merely seek optional alternatives:

- 1) Put on a tape.
- 2) Leave the room.
- 3) Endeavour other forms of media.
- 4) Change the station and surround yourself with familiars. (I suggest Radio Pacific.)

I am not denying you of your Push Push and Nine Livez. In fact, I encourage you to absorb yourself and that intoxicated ego in further narrow minded opinionation [sic]. In the meantime, allow your peers (assuming you are affiliated with Generation X) to continue making and listening to whatever music they desire!

Momentously yours,

[Name cut off fax], Christchurch.

The I Hate Merle H Thomas Fan Club

This is to Merle H Thomas of Auckland,

After reading your sad comment about Pearl Jam, I was fucking steaming! You're the best excuse for nuking Auckland, and I hope the fleas of a thousand camels infest your armpits.

Why are you slagging off at Pearl Jam? Did it even occur to you that Eddie Vedder isn't Kurt Cobain. I bet you still believe Elvis is still alive too. The fact is, a lot of people adore Pearl Jam. Why do people take it upon themselves to back stab every band who are honest and sincere? What gives anyone the right to do this?

There are many bands I don't like, but I respect that people like them and leave it alone.

I'm sure you'd feel pissed off if some trendy fuck shifted all over your favourite band. Go bitch at someone who cares. Real music fans should accept each individual musician for who they are, and not compare them to persons who no longer exist.

And when have Split Enz sounded like the Beatles? I found it a real compliment when Pearl Jam acknowledged some New Zealand talent, unlike some tight arsed, self indulging Americans. Get off the bandwagon man! Knocking bands is old and getting boring!

And, I might add, all of Pearl Jam's albums have sold like gas masks at Belsen.

Lots of love and kisses,

Kelly, Christchurch.

Re: Merle H Thomas,

Gee Merle, you must be a real fan of Nirvana et al to have such an eloquent, well thought out opinion. But don't hold back. Wash out those finger paints and put crayon to paper once more. Regale us with some more pithy insights. It is refreshing to see an open (albeit vacuous) mind string so many big words together.

Roger T.

To Merle H Thomas of Auckland,

I think that you are the most sordid, pig-headed person in this entire world. Not only did you slag off two of New Zealand's finest musicians, but just because you don't like Pearl Jam, you have to call everyone who likes them idiots. Have you got nothing more creative to do with you time than to write in to a magazine that featured Pearl Jam last month and call them idiots. How would you feel if someone wrote what you said about Kurt Cobain?

You are a disgrace to New Zealand by slagging off Tim and Neil Finn. You are putting down the New Zealand music industry. You mustn't have any sense of pride about our country, and you mustn't have any friends because there's a lot more people that like Pearl Jam than you think. I don't care if you don't like them, just don't go calling people who like them idiots. If you've got nothing nice to say, keep your stupid thoughts to yourself because no-one wants to know.

Kelly Nicholls.

I would just like to say a big 'fuck you' to Merle H Thomas, you wet dreaming, perverted filth. The lyrics that Eddie Vedder writes are not just lyrics, they are some sort of phenomenon — something that will never come out of your impertinent little pathetic mind. This [is] coming from neither a surfer, homosexual, orangutan or Henderson resident. Are you sure you are not a closet bed wetter?

It would bring me great pleasure to see you sing and perform in front of 10,000 people; or are you just a hypocrite with no co-ordination or musical talent, you two dollar peep show watcher?

Nick T, Glendowie.

I just want to say the letter from Merle H Thomas in the May issue was the most bitter, twisted and negative letter I have read for a long time. Telling people to throw their Pearl Jam records in the garbage. If everyone listened to the same music (ie. that dictated by people like Merle), *RipItUp* would be out of business!

Besides putting people down because of their musical preference, how many other readers were outraged by the comments on Tim and Neil Finn (founders of one of the best New Zealand bands in history)? For those attending the Pearl Jam concert (and some of those 'orangutans' actually like your beloved Cobain too thanks Merle!), the Finn brothers were a surprise and a delight. And since when have Split Enz been 'Beatles imitators'? I think Merle is way off beat with the musical analysis.

Who is really the 'git' here? I think maybe Merle H Thomas should get a life and stop obsessing over poor departed Kurt Cobain — not all musicians can be as perfect as he.

Shelley, Wellington.

Regarding a letter in May's issue 213.

Our response is pretty straight forward. Merle H Thomas, get your hand off your cock for a minute and listen up. First things first: Merle is one big fucking toss. Let's get to the point. Anyone who can't appreciate another's effort to get up and entertain thousands of people (with lives) must be a Milli Vanilli fanatic.

Another fuck-up on Merle's part is that Pearl Jam don't play heavy metal. Some call it grunge, some call it alternative, but no way is it metal shit.

Pearl Jam brought on two of New Zealand's greatest artists when Tim and Neil Finn took

the stage. [Who] give[s] a shit about who Kurt Cobain bought on stage? Just take a look at what happened to him.

By the way, we know you were just pissed off because you fucked up in getting a ticket to the concert.

The I Hate Merle H Thomas Fan Club, Mike and Jason, Hamilton.

PS: What kind of fucked up person would call their kid Merle? Also, we couldn't figure out what sex you are, but obviously you ain't got no balls.

Listen up Merle H Thomas, Auckland (May *RipItUp*).

Maybe you get a thrill out of taking the shit out of Eddie Vedder, but the world does give a toss about Pearl Jam, especially lil' ole New Zealand. Why else would they sell out two New Zealand concerts? There can't be that many 'looney tuned, partially deaf orangutans' in New Zealand, or did everyone go to pick shit with them? I don't think sooo.

Before you start to stir up any more shit about any other bands, I reckon I could do the same to Nirvana (not saying I don't like them, 'cause I do). Pearl Jam can't be that wimpy, 'cause at least Eddie Vedder hasn't blown his brains out yet! (RIP Kurt.)

Plus, what the hell is wrong with surfers? And Neil and Tim Finn are among the best musicians in New Zealand. I reckon they done a better job than you could have. The only 'git' around here is you!

Please retrieve your Pearl Jam albums out of the bin and turn 'em up loud! Can you find a 'Better Man'?

Carrots, Hamilton.

PS: What's wrong with Henderson?

Hey Merle of Auckland,

Why don't you get a life and stop trashing decent bands like Pearl Jam? It's pretty obvious to the rest of the human race that not everyone likes the same bands. Each to his own, matey. Just because you don't like them doesn't automatically make them losers.

Tim and Neil Finn aren't my favourite either, but you won't hear me coming down on them. At least they're out there giving it a go, doing something constructive, unlike you.

There's nothing wrong with surfing. It's a great sport. There's nothing wrong with Eddie either. He has a lot of talent and many people like and admire him, including me. (By the way, last time I looked in the mirror, it wasn't an orangutan that looked back.)

I know you're from Auckland, but next time try to behave like a normal human being.

Absolutely Positively

Pearl Jam Fan, Wellington.

PS: Pearl Jam aren't heavy mental (ha, ha, very witty), they're alternative. Get your facts straight. You're the 'git' Merle, not Eddie.

Hey Merle (Girlie) Thomas of Auckland,

You have obviously got about as much intellect and/or understanding of Pearl Jam as a stale dog shit has, so I'd like to correct you on the uninformed and hypocritical contents of your letter from last month:

1) Pearl Jam are not 'heavy metal' or posers. They are merely hard rock (mistakenly called grunge sometimes).

2) They are definitely not money making as they are currently engaged in a battle with the US Ticketmaster agency to lower ticket prices.

3) You apparently didn't go to the concerts, so how do you know if they were useless or not?

4) When did Kurt Cobain have Courtney Love as a guest?

5) No one else seems to think the Finns are Beatles impersonators, and they were brought one because Split Enz were Vedder's favourite band when he was growing up.

6) What's wrong with surfers?

So Merle, I hope you will be more informed in the future, and will stop to think before you open your arse, oops, I mean mouth!

Matthew K, Auckland.

PS: Who are you to hassle Eddie Vedder's name when you've got a name like Merle. Pah-leese!

I am writing in reply to the letter by Merle H Thomas of Auckland which featured in your May issue, for some strange reason that remains unknown to mankind. I get the distinct feeling this person doesn't like Pearl Jam. Well Merle, not everybody gets off on Nirvana either, but everybody for their own.

I have been a Pearl Jam fan for over three years so, needless to say, I counted myself extremely lucky to be able to attend their second concert, which, I must add, was an extremely moving performance.

As for Mr Vedder bringing out Tim and Neil