

Finn to perform 'History Never Repeats' and 'I Got You' (two of New Zealand's classics). I consider that to be a great compliment to New Zealand music. At least Eddie is aware that New Zealand actually has a music scene and made an effort to be a part of it! The performances by Vedder and the Finns may have actually been the high points of both the concerts. Or maybe you just had to experience it. From what I saw in the crowd, no-one was complaining about the presence of the Finn brothers; in fact, quite the opposite. It was great for these classics to be recognised [by] a band who are often recognised as 'rock giants'. It would have been just as easy of them not to give a fuck. I would like to see Kurt fucking Cobain get up and do old songs from Th' Dudes or Hello Sailor. (Oh fuck, that's right, he can't!)

So, Merle H Thomas, on behalf of myself and all the other orangutans who attended the Pearl Jam concerts in Auckland, I would like to say fucking dream on, get a fucking life, and give New Zealand's musical history a go — you might actually like it!

I'd also like to say a big thank you to Eddie, Stone, Jeff, Mike and Jack for taking the time to come to small ole' New Zealand, and giving two of their typically great performances. Also, a massive thanks to Tim and Neil just for being there to perform.

Oh, and Merle, what the hell has Eddie being a surfer got to do with anything? Get fucked.

Viva la vinyl (and bring back *Frenzy*).

**Bruce from Wanganui (you know the one).**

PS: I agree with Jason Peters whole heartedly!

#### One Of 'Us All'

Karl Steven's comments in last month's *RipItUp* might well explain why national television and the media in general have turned their back on the *New Zealand Music Awards*. An awards ceremony where, and I quote, 'the industry get together, get pissed, and give bands they like bits of yellow perspex,' hardly warrants significant national coverage.

The New Zealand fashion industry have got it together and recognise the need for an annual event which is a showcase, for their industry, with the *Benson and Hedges Fashion Awards*. Why do we allow petty in-fighting and attitudes such as your's rob the New Zealand music industry of a high profile showcase, where New Zealand musical achievement is recognised and rewarded with dignity and pride? How is the industry ever going to compete internationally with such a small-minded view as yours?

When referring to the public vote for best single, you say: 'I think the song we all know to be

the best should have won.' Who are the 'we all' you are referring to? Your tobacco company sponsors, your pissed mates at the *Music Awards*, your neighbours? Next time, perhaps you will have the courtesy to consult 'us all' before you speak on our behalf.

Get your head clear, Karl, or are you blinded by that smoky haze? New Zealand has a wealth of musical talent. Let's celebrate and reward it with some pride. Remember, to use your words: 'What I think changes.' Yeah, let it change, but please try to expand your thinking beyond that of arrogant self-interest.

**Mary-anne Fletcher.**

#### One of These Things is Not Like the Other

Why is Silverchair so put down all the time? Just because they look like the much loved group Nirvana doesn't mean they are impersonating them. They certainly don't sound like them. When I first heard their album *Frogstomp*, I thought they sounded like Soundgarden. They write their own simple songs which sound pretty good, but I've heard some of their music before, probably copied off some old Eric Clapton album with a bit of distortion added. But it is a good album and I hope to hear another one from them. Maybe they will improve with age.

Also, Mr Thomas of Auckland, Pearl Jam played a great concert, and when Tim and Neil came on stage, I think everyone was surprised. They helped finish the concert beautifully.

**SP Kilpatrick, Waitara.**

#### I Like Pumpkinhead

My mate and I are sitting down on Saturday morning watching the chart show. It comes to our attention that they can play videos that have drive by shootings and younger people promoting sex and gang violence, but there's no way they will play Pumpkinhead, who just promote the real things in life, like eating Weetbix, watching *Shortland Street* and being on the dole. It's not like if someone heard them say 'I like Thursdays, they're my dole day,' they are going to quit their job and go on the dole. Big deal — it's not like marijuana is mentioned the whole way through the whole song. Wake up! Pumpkinhead are going to go a long way, and it's about time people start to realise it like we do! We should be supporting them, not turning them away.

*Pumpkinhead go off!*

**Kelly Nicholls and Loma Berge, Whitianga.**

Write to RipItUp Letters, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1 or fax us on (09) 376 1558



## IGELESE ETE: FUSION FUNK

Wellington's Igelese Ete has more musical ability in his little finger than some pop stars have in their entire bodies.

After shifting from Samoa when he was seven, Igelese began singing in the choir at the church where his father was a preacher, and wound up as both a member and conductor of several singing groups, including the National Youth Choir. At age 15, he was resident pianist at the Park Royal Hotel in Wellington. He recently completed a music degree at Victoria University, with a major in performance singing.

His latest achievement is the release of 'Groovalation' — a smooth, funky dance single, that fuses Polynesian and Maori rapping, with a deep R&B groove. It's a major leap away from his past direction, but Igelese states there is a message behind the move.

"Doing 'Groovalation' was a real breath of fresh air for me. It's the type of stuff I really want to do. One day I went into the studio and said I wanted to combine different styles of music, and by doing that I hoped to get a unifying effect. I included the Polynesian styles because that's my background, and Maori because I wanted to pay tribute to the tangata

whenua. The other reason I wanted to do 'Groovalation' was to prove to young people that if you have a vision, not to give up."

Getting 'Groovalation' in the can proved easy, but without the support of a record company, Igelese was turned down three times by NZ On Air for video funding. He had no initial success when he began searching for a recording contract.

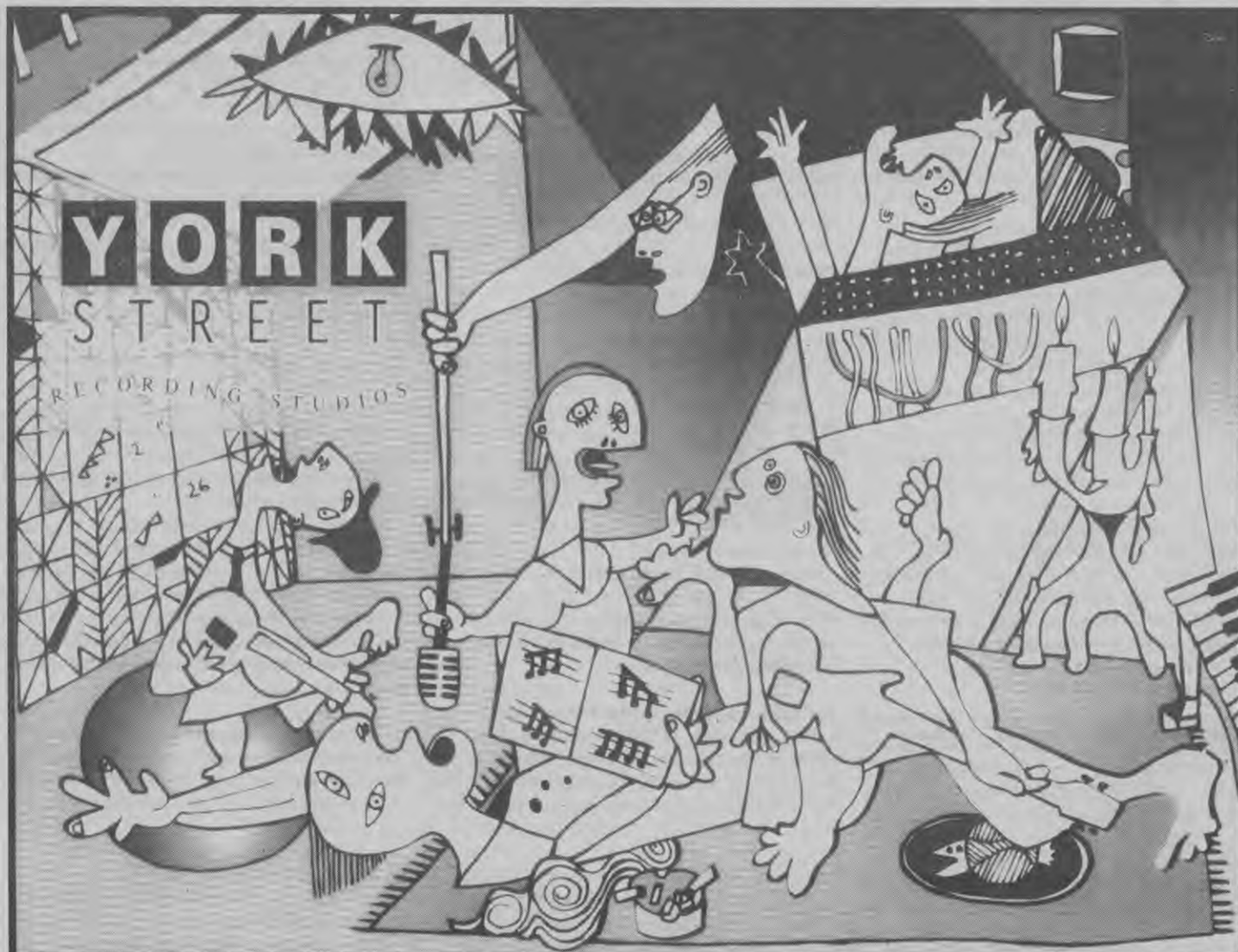
"I'm no record company, but I think most of them were too scared to take a song that had a Samoan and a Maori rapper. Maybe they just thought it was too extreme to try and sell."

A deal was struck with fledgling Auckland label Papa Pacific, after Igelese met label boss Manu Taylor, and the two have an album release planned for later in the year. Meanwhile, Igelese has begun collaborating with Wellington band Gifted and Brown and former Rough Opinion rapper Kas, on what he describes as a new "urban sound".

"I think the next thing people are going to get into is Polynesian fusion — mixing up a lot of different styles. That will be the thing to look out for."

**JOHN RUSSELL**

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