

# albums



Anita Lane

an unusual post-gig sound — what could this supposedly reformed 70s tearaway be up to? The door opened, and there was Zevon's guitar tech' feeding carrots into the blender. His charge's glass was half full. Zevon's art and life were clearly no longer intertwined, which partially explained the failure of 1991's *Mr Bad Example* — clearly he wasn't anymore, although his increasingly cynical songs were about people that were.

Although *Mutineer* is a far better album than that (the title track, 'Piano Fighter', 'The Indifference of Heaven' and the ballad 'Similar to Rain' are among the best songs Zevon's written in years), it still suffers from a similar failure of heart. Teaming up with Florida crime writer Carl Hiasen might appear like a good idea on paper, but clever lines and smug urban sociology do not a good song make. Musically, it suffers from a lack of direction, and sometimes the ambitious arrangements don't really work ('Piano Fighter', for example, is never quite as singular a song as it should be).

Nothing wrong, of course, with making rock 'n' roll on carrot juice — just don't sound like you wish it were something stronger in the glass.

GREG FLEMING

## ANITA LANE *Dirty Pearl* (Mute)

Anita Lane is Nick Cave's ex-girlfriend. This record is produced by (and includes many songs co-written by) Mick Harvey, Cave's right hand Bad Seed. Guests on the album include Cave, other primo Bad Seed Blixa Bargeld and his other band Einstürzende Neubauten, and the Cruel Sea's Ken Gormley... getting the picture?

But Lane has her own style and a great voice, ranging from the country-ish torch style of 'Jesus Almost Got Me', to a groovy drawl on 'The Groovy Guru', to the weirdly poetic on 'Blume', with E Neubauten, and including a fantastic cover of 'Sexual Healing', that manages to be both exuberantly innocent and deliciously nasty at the same time.

The record moves in reverse chronological order from new tracks back through a number of odds and ends recorded over the years, including songs with Cave, ex-Bad Seed Barry Adamson, a track from the *Ghosts of the Civil Dead* soundtrack, back to 'The Fullness of His Coming', with the Birthday Party, from 1982. It's all interesting, but it's the earlier (hence,

most recent) tracks on the album that I like best. However, if anyone on the roster of names above interests you, then there's bound to be many parts of this wide ranging album that will appeal to you.

JONATAHN KING

## STEVE EARLE *Train A Comin'* (Flying In)

Even his drug of choice (heroin) served to isolate him from his Nashville contemporaries. It seems it's ok to be an alcoholic or speed freak, but junkiedom transgresses the moral code of Earle's home town. Of course, it didn't help that Earle's music had increasingly broadened from his debut album, *Guitar Town* in 1986, to embrace rock and heavy metal's outlaw trimmings.

*Train A Comin'* marks Earle's comeback from both drug addiction (anyone who caught his one gig here some years back will testify that being totally stoned doesn't stop you putting on a hell of a show) and rock posturing. Consisting of covers and mostly older Earle songs (ie. pre-smack), it's an all-acoustic affair featuring some of country's finest players, and reminds one of Dave Alvin's similarly posi-

tioned album, *King Of California*. Songs include Townes Van Zandt's 'Tecumseh Valley', the Beatles' 'I'm Looking Through You', and a hill-billy 'Rivers of Babylon', featuring guest vocalist Emmylou Harris. If his voice hasn't gotten any smoother, it's all the more evocative given the songs' sparse settings (Border Radio's Grant McAllum reckons if you listen close enough, you can tell all of Earle's teeth have fallen out). If Earle's 'ghetto vacation' is indeed over, this is a fine return to the workforce.

GREG FLEMING

## X *Unlogged* (Infidelity)

Always one of the most interesting of the initial LA punk bands, X are now proving themselves to be one of the most consistent and long lived too. This latest offering is a fine thing: a sort of acoustic deal recorded live in a San Francisco church, that gives a nice new skew on a lot of great songs.

This 'unplugged' thing has been a double edged sword with a lot of otherwise dismissable acts (White Lion!), proving they had the fundamentals down, while other bands simply proved they jump bandwagons blindfolded. X, however, had been doing the acoustic thing before MTV named it, and they have songs that adapt well. Thus, some of the quicker songs, like 'White Girl' and 'I See Red', stomp along in a fine hoedown fashion, with Exene and John Doe getting the harmonies cranked and DJ Bonebrake proving why he would be a superstar if anyone cared about drummers. Better yet is where they take songs and flip them all around, to which end a great punk moment like 'The World's A Mess, It's In My Kiss' becomes an absolutely beautiful ballad, and my little world is perfect for just a few minutes.

KIRK GEE

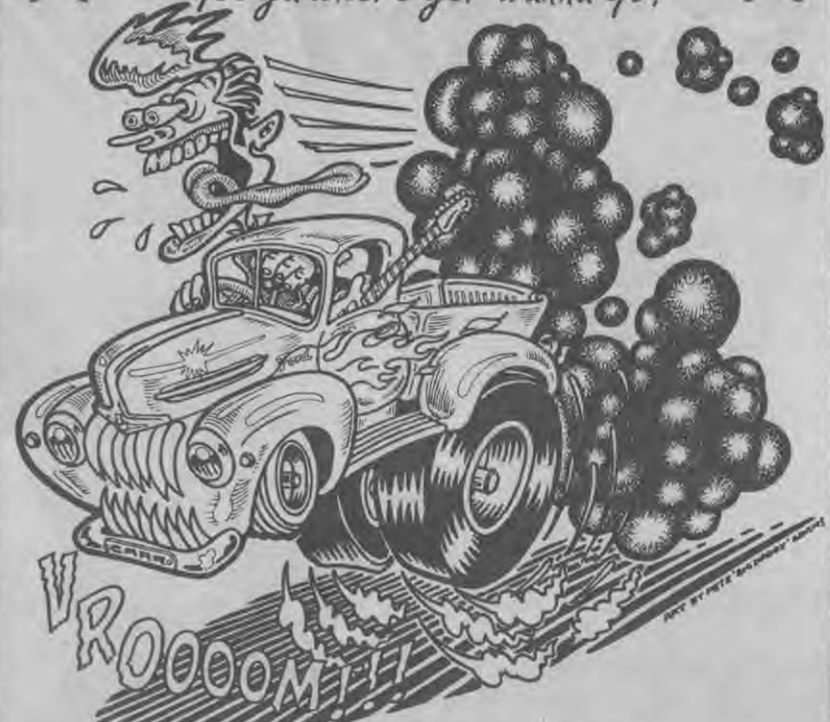
## BEN HARPER *Fight For Your Mind* (Virgin)

Following his impressive, if rather commercially tepid, *Welcome To The Cruel World*, *Fight For Your Mind* delivers more gospel according to Harper. The title track is only one title here that could as easily double for political dogma; others here include 'People Lead', 'Give a Man a Home' and 'Oppression'. There's a more bluesy, funky feel to this one, and Harper's vocals have never been as impressively stoned. He clearly pines for the political and musical authority of someone like Bob Marley (indeed, quite a few songs here recall Marley's

# CARR Signs

& GRAPHIX

Get ya where yer wanna Go!



VROOOOM!!!

BOOST YOUR BAND'S PROFILE  
WITH A PROFESSIONAL BACKDROP!

CNR GREAT NORTH RD / PREMIER AVE  
PASADENA AUCKLAND

## 846-4069

NZSDA EST. 1968

**YORK STREET**  
RECORDING STUDIOS

**pod**  
IMPERIAL BRIDGE  
13 GUYTON ST

**KAHUUA**

## PRESENT HATCHING

Alex, Alfalfameo, Atomic Butterfly, Better than Sex, Camis, Charlie don't Surf, Cheese, Civilisation, Commodus' Sponge, Condition Red, Corrugate, Cranking Dream, Cutty Sark, Cyril, Decline in Mind, Denied Sirenia, Deviant, Dios, Dirge, Doggy, Dreadstayne, Dreamstone, Ed, Eel, Fluid, Gravel Monsters, Heartland, House of Cards, Ignatia, Inchworm, Iris, Krushing Day, Lagerwerfer, Lounge Act, Lurkster, Malevolence, Malice, Mello Thumb, Molotov, Muckhole, Mule, Nourishment, No Quarter, Pace Car, Paladin, Rachael's Navel, Raw Meat for the Balcony, Resonator, Schizo-Phrenia, Septimus, Sinatra, Slambodia, Spawn, Spine, Stress, Sunday Roast, Tadpole, Teen Shag Super Star, The Gascoignes, The Pet Rocks, Tha Managers, The Slayers, Think Tank, Tilt, U Knowit, Winterland.

Semi Finals: Saturday the 9th - & (15th Friday) - 16th - 23rd September

Grand Final: Saturday the 30th September

With the GENEROUS support of:

**MACKIE**

ACCUSOUND NZ LTD  
REPORTERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

**ripitup**

**KORG**

*gls strings*

**Dr. Martens**

**CARVIN**

**SENNHEISER**

**PEPSI**

**ABBNEY SOUND**

**KINGSLEY SMITH MUSIC**

**LION RED**

**fish hair cutters**