



LIVE

Auckland Punks!

**The Scavengers and The Suburban Reptiles
Auckland University Cafe
Saturday 16th July**

The dance at the Varsity cafe featuring the Scavengers and the Suburban Reptiles was notable not only for the beer and urine on the floor, but for a more interesting aspect (this is of course based on the long term algorithm) — potential. I'm not talking about the potential of the groups; they have little, and I myself would prefer them to have none. No ... there was audience potential, and although on this occasion there were too few people, not enough hot tempers, not enough volume etc. to spark the crowd, it will happen soon.

If you are the sort who is sick of the "Shut up and listen" concerts or the "Oh, how do you do" and "Shirt, Steve, Arm frakin pithed" clubs and pubs, then your presence at a Scavs and Reptiles do is probably what you, and they, need.

The Scavengers are a four piece, the Reptiles a six. The Scavengers were more straightforward, very unpolished, out of tune and hectic. The Reptiles sounded better, were more

together and extraordinarily out of tune. Billy Boots (bass) and Buster Stix (drums) were a pile-driving unit that could go on to greater things. The others suffered from the self-conscious bug but, with a couple of cans on the head, that should sort itself out.

There was one major disappointment. I didn't want to hear songs by the Damned, early Who and Sex Pistols but I got them all, and so any real down-to-earth flavour was lost. With this standard of music, there is no need for cover-versions — stick to your own stuff, lads, as it's more direct and with your confidence should drive through much better. On the by, the music should have been twice as loud ... it should have been deafening.

I have one scene that summed up the night for me. A lawyer, from Kohi, went along to the cafe after a pleasant evening at a Parnell hotel. During the Reptiles, he spat most of his beer on the heads of unfortunates and the beer that did make it to his person was released in a great torrent onto the cafe floor. Aesthetically, it was nothing spectacular — but it had potential.

Mike Chunn

The Suburban Reptiles



Bamboo

Hues Corp.

Three years ago in the Auckland Town Hall, I was surprised to find that the Hues Corporation were an energetic act with a tight band and some good material. Their hard work made them comparable with the Motown vocal groups that had toured New Zealand, even though they only worked with a four piece band.

The Hues Corporation was an appropriately bold name for a group that had achieved recording success independent of the companies that specialise in black music. Behind the Hues Corporation is their manager Wally Holmes, who writes most of their material, produces their albums and helps with their choreography.

In sixteen days of one night stands the Hues Corporation travelled by car from Greymouth to Gisborne. In many centres they had two shows. I talked to St Clair Lee after the Hamilton show about the tour and their current standing in the music world. Everything was 'cool!' They loved their manager and their record company, they were happy to perform anywhere, and St Clair Lee never mentioned any aspirations that were not fulfilled by the release of their new album, *Not Too Shabby*.

They delighted the Hamilton audience with their energy and fine presentation. St Clair Lee's dancing with members of the audience as "Rock The Boat" (the final number) rocked on, was an effective climax to the show. But I was not the only person surprised that they chose not to perform "Rockin' Soul" and Toussaint's "Freedom For The Stallion", the highlights of their first tour. The concert

Bamboo / Debbie Filler

For those not already in the know, Auckland has at last sprouted a genuine patron of the arts. Mr Charlie Gray who keeps the *Island of Real Cafe* in Airedale Street has started a programme of music and entertainment on selected week-nights and on Sunday afternoons.

On this chosen Sunday, Debbie Filler, well known Joni Mitchell devotee about town, and Bamboo, newish and punchy rock 'n' roll band, combined to provide diversion for we languid souls who sought to fritter away an afternoon. Deborah sang songs written by (amongst others) Ms Mitchell, Geoffrey Chunn, Randy Newman and herself. Bamboo exhibited a generally exemplary taste in material (Allen Toussaint, Little Feat, The Stones), and as a highlight, Deborah joined the band for a stirring rendition of Randy Newman's "Guilty".

Barring the tedious theatre group, a pleasant enough time was registered by most, in this venue to be noted.
Bruce Belsham

featured songs from their new album and popular songs such as, "For Once In My Life" and "Puppet Man".

Looking back, St Clair Lee says to young acts coming up — "Prepare yourself totally, make yourself ready and when the train gets there, you can get on board". The Hues Corporation have been on the train for a while now and their first albums, that three years ago looked like a good start, now are the highpoint of their recording. Their new album, *Not Too Shabby* is pleasant, "I Can't Put My Finger On It" is a fine song but the album is not a step forward. In the future more energy will have to be directed from the athletics of touring to the studio, if they are going to move beyond their first recordings.

Murray Cammick



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