

Sing if you're glad to be gay? Not on Radio New Zealand you won't. **The Tom Robinson Band's** second release, the *Rising Free* EP, includes one song, "Sing If You're Glad to Be Gay" which has been banned by RNZ. Their purchasing officer, Jim MacMillan, says the song's "homosexual content might be offensive to listeners and it may only be played in cases for documentary purposes." EMI, who distribute the record are urging all concerned persons to send a telegram to RNZ protesting against the ban ... when Carl Wilson was in NZ with the Beach Boys he told a reporter that **Lowell George** was ... uh, well let's say he was reported to be very unhealthy. All the more surprising then to see Lowell in *People* magazine minus a beard and looking at least a couple of stone overweight. Nevertheless he has suffered from continual medical problems. At the time of recording *Time Loves a Hero*, he went down with hepatitis and more recently, while working on mixing *Waiting for Columbus*, George was thrown off a motor cycle and shattered several discs requiring delicate spinal surgery. But the double live album has finally broken El Feat through to a wider audience and earned them a gold album. At a recent Feat show James Taylor, Carly Simon and Phoebe Snow made an appearance and James and Phoebe made it on stage for the show's encore ... **Elvis Costello and the Attractions** have also been suffering from medical problems. Seems bassist Bruce Thomas was demon-



strating the correct way to smash a bottle. It didn't quite work and he badly gashed his hand, requiring 18 stitches. As they're currently touring Britain this presented a bit of a problem. The redoubtable Nick Lowe stood in for one gig and a replacement bass player will have to be found for the remainder of the tour ... as **Graham Parker's** last album, *Stick to Me*, makes NZ release, his next hits the stands in Britain. Titled *Parkerilla* it's sort of a double live album. By sort of I mean it's actually 3 sides of live material, while on the fourth side there's a 45 version of the pink Parker's current single, "Don't Ask Me No Questions". The live material is drawn from all three of GP's album's and by all reports it's a killer collection. P.S. It sells for the price of a single album in Britain ... other British New Wavers. **The Jam** have just completed their first US visit. The response they received ranged from audience abuse when they supported Blue Oyster Cult to mad enthusiasm at a gig with The Ramones. **Ian Dury** is also making his premier visit to the States and, in one of the

No Enz Split

Contrary to rumour, NZ's Split Enz are not disbanding. The group is at present living in and around London and preparing to change from their Australian based record co. Mushroom Records, to an English one. Since the demise of their former management co., Mental Management, the group has been sorting through interested parties and it looks as if they will sign Barry Dickens (who has worked previously with the Kinks and others) to the managerial role.

Dickens has been negotiating on their behalf with English record companies and there are at least four interested. As well Ray Davies of the Kinks has approached the band to see if they were interested in his producing them and Ian Anderson recently invited them out to his Maison Rouge recording studio to do some demos for a single.

At this stage the group is keen to start recording on the next album, so live work in Holland has been cancelled so that this can go ahead.

Mitch Ryder best remembered for his hits with "C.C. Rider" and "Devil With a Blue Dress" is trying to make a come-back and begins with a series of US dates ... **Allen Clarke** has quit the Hollies. He previously left in 1971 only to return three years later. It's not known if the Hollies will seek to replace him or continue as a four-piece ... on the merchandising front all you members of the **Kiss** army will be pleased to hear that they're marketing Kiss cosmetics so you can look just like your heroes. Gosh, you could wear it while reading your Kiss comic book and listening to your Kiss records in your Kiss T-shirt and ... three CBS acts **Les Dudek**, **Mike Finnigan** and **Jim Krieger**, each with solo albums out, are combining to tour and will appear as the DFK band ... News on forthcoming vinyl: **Bob Seger** has finally finished mixing on his new album ... **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers** newie titled *You're Going to Get It* ... and I don't believe it but **Bruce Springsteen's** album is now also due for May release overseas ... **Maria Muldaur's** first epee in two years *Southern Winds* contains three Leon Russell songs ... **Maddy Prior** (ex Steeleye Span) releases her first solo album. It features songs written by Maddy, it's called *Woman in the Wings* and it's produced by Ian Anderson ... **Television** newie is *Adventure* and **The Stranglers** is *Black and White* while **Allen Toussaint's** is titled *Motion* and produced by Jerry Wexler and **Van Morrison's** *Let the Cowboy Ride* is set for June release ... and with that last piece of information it's goodnight from me. Three dots please ...

RY COODER



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weirder pairings of the decade, is playing clubs with Lou Reed ... and speaking of **Elvis Costello**, well we were a few minutes ago, it seems **Elton John** was being presented with an award by a major British radio station when Elton said he hadn't cut any records for two years and so "this award really belongs to Elvis Costello." Magnanimous gesture what? ... **Bryan Ferry** has apparently finished work on his new album and returning to Britain, went hunting ... ex-Roxy Music saxist **Andy MacKay** has signed a solo recording deal. For the past few months he's been concentrating on TV work particularly on the second series of *Rock Follies* ... **Elton John's** partnership with Bernie Taupin may well be over. He's now working with lyricist Gary Osbourne and a very busy pair they've been too ... **Mink de Ville** have lost piano player Bobby Leonard and are scouring the bars of New Orleans for a replacement. Their second album, *Return to Magenta*, gets overseas release this month ... **Bob Dylan** wasn't just jiving when he said his next album would be a more carefully recorded project. Likely producer is Jack Nietzsche, and it'll probably be recorded in L.A. Reports have the Zim netting a cool \$1 million from his Australian tour ... and while we're talking money, the **Bee Gees** will reportedly take home \$1 million in publishing royalties alone from the *Saturday Night Fever* project ... and one source has estimated that the **Eagles** sell a million albums every 30 days. Gulp ... success on a slightly smaller scale for **Dragon**. Their last single ("April Sun in Cuba") has gone platinum in Australia, as has their album. A new single titled "Konkaroo" is set for imminent release ... **George Harrison** has decided on the musicians for his next album. He'll use as a basic band Neil Larsen (keyboards) Willie Weeks (bass) and Andy Newmark (drums) as well as young Eric Clapton on guitar ... Ringo meanwhile told an interviewer that John (Lennon, that is) was recording. But no-one else seems able to confirm this. Come on John, how about it? ... **Wings** are auditioning replacements for the drum and lead guitar positions in the band. A spokesman cautiously confirmed that, yes, this could be construed as Macca and the rest getting ready for further touring ... that nice boy **Johnny Rotten** is currently holidaying in LA with his mother ...



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HEAVILY INTO MUSIC

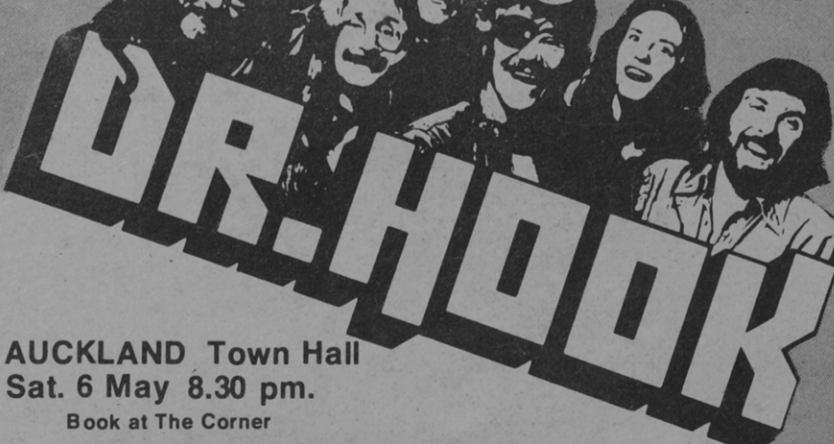
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