



After a rather long silence, the **PSYCHEDELIC FURS** are about to unleash a new album, *Mirror Moves*, on the world. First up, however, will be the single 'Heaven', which is climbing the UK charts. And what does it mean that only (L-R) John Ashton, Richard Butler and Tim Butler have appeared in the promotional photograph? Surely Phil Calvert hasn't been thrown out of another band?

Verlaine Again

The Verlaines are back in swing proper after a couple of long periods of inactivity. They've just finished recording a new EP and you might just see them in your town soon.

The band's problems have mainly been with holding on to drummers — both Alan Haig (now back with the Chills) and former Spines drummer Caroline Easther (who had to return to Wellington) joined and left the band. But now Robbie Yeates (a native of Gore, the South's little-known musical mecca) has his backside firmly planted on the drumseat and things have stabilised.

Was it frustrating being out of circulation?

"Not really," says bassist Jane Dodd. "It was frustrating having to start over again but the actual lay-off wasn't really frustrating."

"It was more or less a holiday. I suppose most bands take them anyway, sooner or later," adds singer-guitarist Graeme Downes.

All three are at university, enforcing part-time status for the band because they can only tour during university holidays.

"But as far as I'm concerned that's alright because the work's not too hard so you don't need to take a rest in your holidays,"

Downes smiles.

So there's no desire to go full-time?

"I think this way we might last longer. You play a few gigs and you might go for five years and still retain some freshness. It's better than being a professional and getting sick of it after six months."

If you're talking that kind of longevity do you think you'll have to throw out older songs in order to stay interested?

"Every song's different. A weak song will go but there's no need for a strong song to," says Dodd.

So you don't get sick of playing 'Death and the Maiden', which dates back a long way?

"Sometimes ..." ventures Downes.

Dodd: "It's not really a matter of getting sick of playing it, it's getting sick of *having* to play it. Sometimes you're *expected* to play it."

Downes: "Yeah, it would be nice not to have to play it every time ..."

Yeates: "We have left it out sometimes."

Downes: "Have we? It's not quite so bad in Dunedin because everyone knows the other songs a lot better so they can appreciate the ones that aren't on record. But I think the lyrics of that song are good, so I usually manage to sing it with feeling — because it still means something to me to sing it. That's why I don't write very many songs. The ones that have meaning in them last longer."

Russell Brown

Verlaines: (L-R) Robbie Yeates, Graeme Downes, Jane Dodd.



Party Girl Jenny

Jenny Morris popped home to New Zealand for Christmas in the belief nothing was happening for her Sydney band Q.E.D. Their debut single 'Everywhere I Go' had been released in October and barely caused a ripple.

"I'd given up on it," she says. "But when I got back to Sydney everyone was saying 'Where have you been? We've been trying to get hold of you. It's taken off!'"

The single eventually charted well in most centres and went to number three in the band's home city. The band was keen to bring in an overseas producer for the follow-up, 'This One', but such was the record company's (EMI) enthusiasm that it was dictated that the task go to local aces Ricky Fataar and Mark Moffat, who will now also produce Q.E.D.'s debut album.

Q.E.D. was begun just over a year ago by Morris and guitarist Rex Goh (who had earlier wisely left Air Supply). The pair and bassist Ian Dalton are presently looking for a new drummer and keyboardist after firing the former members because "we decided their musical ideas were not what Q.E.D. was all about."

Morris writes most of the band's songs but one recent song came from fellow former Croc, Fane Flaws, who now works mainly as an artist. She also sees Tony Backhouse, who now resides with the Vulgar Beatmen and Barton Price who, of course, is drumming with the Models.

DD Smash have had something of a problem in Australia in that they don't present an "image." Have you had any problem there?

"I'm still working that out. I'm



Jenny Morris

afraid I'm not a very easy artist to work with in that respect because I don't believe that someone should be moulded into an image and I constantly rebel against that. People in the record company are always saying to me 'You wear so many different clothes — you've got to be able to be identified'. And I'm afraid my answer is 'Why should I? My identity is me, Jenny Morris'."

Morris has now winged her way back to Australia to make a new video, do a short tour and then begin work on the album. She's looking forward to the studio as a rest from constant live work. Q.E.D. play five or six nights a week — par for the course in the big city. She says any NZ band going over can expect the same sort of grind.

"They'll soon find out what we all find out — every single band that's gone over there — you've got to go back to scratch. It doesn't matter how big you are here. Dave Dobbyn's an institution in New Zealand now but he's a nobody over there." RB



Brian, Gordon at Sounds Unlimited.

Violent Femmes

New Zealand made a big impression on Milwaukee's Violent Femmes — so much so that they want to return here next January to record their third album.

Ritchie and manager/producer Mark Van Hecke are also interested in ethnic music and stayed on a few days after the tour so Maui Records' Dalvanian could take them down to Patea and show them what Maori music was all about.

The band also made an unusual in-store appearance at an Auckland record shop, playing an acoustic set to a crowd jammed in between the record bins. The performance was broadcast live on Campus Radio, which followed it up with a repeat of the band's chaotic radio interview with a bemused Chris Easter. (When's the bootleg coming out?)

'Y'all come back now — y'hear?

Footnote: Look out for the new Femmes album, *Hallowed Ground*, which is due out soon. It's quite a change from their first, with song titles like 'Jesus Walking on the Water', and the introduction of new instruments, including a horn section.

Rappers In Court Battle

● Legal action to claim damages on the part of **GRANDMASTER FLASH** from the group going by the name **Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five** have failed but the group must now be called **GRANDMASTER MELLE MEL AND THE FURIOUS FIVE**. Flash made the claim after leaving the group last year, along with a couple of other members but was granted only the use of the shortened street name Grandmaster Flash. The group's lawyers claimed that MEL had written and performed most of the raps the group had recorded and that Flash had appeared on only one **Furious Five** record, the 'Adventures on the Wheels of Steel' single.

As Council Boogies Weller Breaks

● **PAUL WELLER** managed to break his left arm during some horseplay on the **STYLE COUNCIL**'s recent German gambit but he played (in some pain) the same night and the band's live schedule will continue.

Stars Shuffle In Monster Mix

● **BRIAN ENO** will produce the new **U2** album. Recording will begin in Ireland next month.
● **MARK KNOPFLER** will be twiddling the knobs for the next **AZTEC CAMERA** platter.
● **PHIL COLLINS** has produced **ERIC CLAPTON** in Monserrat recently.
● **ERIC CLAPTON** is among the band former **PINK FLOYD** leader **ROGER WATERS** is taking on the road to promote his new solo LP *The Pros and Cons of Hitchhiking*. The shows will evidently feature a huge production.
● **ANNIE LENNOX** quietly announced her marriage recently to an anonymous but very sweet man and there are rumours that fellow **EURYTHMIC**, **DAVE STEWART**, will wed New York songstress **NONA HENDRYX**.

Uncle Elvis In Soccer Series

● **ELVIS COSTELLO** will make his acting debut in BBC Channel Four's *Scully*, the story of a teenager trying to find fame with Liverpool FC. As well as Costello (who plays the youth's uncle) the series will see the first screen appearance of soccer star **KENNY DALGLISH**. The series is written by **ALAN (Boys From the Blackstuff) BLEASDALE**.

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