

Shake Summation

The Clean Live Dead Clean (Flying Nun)

A posthumous live EP from the seminal Dunedin band — six songs recorded in Auckland and Christchurch in 1981 and '82. My favourite is the first side, with 'Two Fat Sisters', then the instrumental tour-de-force 'At the Bottom' (which appears also on the *Oddities* tape) leading into 'Caveman', which is the Clean at their poppy best, even if it does suffer a bit from the "live sound" ... 'Happy Birthday John' (a strange little number), another instrumental called 'Attack of the Teddy Bears' and 'Filling a Hole' make up the second side. It ain't no *Boodle*, but it's always nice to hear something else from the Clean — gimme some more!

Paul McKessar

Tex Pistol The Ballad of Buckskin Bob (Pagan 12")

Recently there's been a lot of cowboys riding the range with their drum machines and sequencers, but here comes one of the better ones — Tex Pistol, with his cautionary Western tale. A little sad, but not lacking in humour. I prefer side two, with 'I Don't Know What Came Over Me', the sort of dirty country ditty found on those X-rated David Allen Coe albums, nice steel guitar solo in there as well. 'Winter' is a fairly straight piece of song writing, but clever use of adapting several Rolling Stones riffs to

form a new song, I can hear 'Honky Tonk Women' and 'Country Honk' at least. Another interesting release from Pagan Records.

Kerry Buchanan

Gotham City Express Imagine (Reaction 7")

A good idea, getting Annie Crummer to sing the version of John Lennon's song Patti Labelle stole *Live Aid* with. And she's done a good job, excellently played of course, but it doesn't move me. But it should move those arbiters of taste, the ZB programmers, which can only be a plus. It builds slowly and delicately, Crummer avoids her tendency to occasionally over-do it, and an anticipated battle against the big-band backing doesn't occur. On 'Who Are You Talkin' To' Peter Morgan impresses; he's got a great modern black sound to his voice. It's a light funk excursion, with little to hook into apart from the voice and the electric piano; though all those classy players get a chance to strut their licks for a coupla bars.

The Mockers

A Winter's Tale (RCA)

Two tracks from the *Culprit and the King* album. 'A Winter's Tale', a morose Mockers exercise, begins with their trademark piano, the production builds, and it looks like we're in for an epic, but suddenly it's all over and the solo piano quickly signs off. On 'Home Again', all stops are pulled out on the synths; it chugs along, and is more sprightly than the A-side. Tailor-made to pad out a pub set with plenty of dry ice, here, the Australian production is very apparent. There's something very mid-70s about these tunes. Andrew's singing has improved, but

the memorable Mockers' hooks are missing.

Nick Smith Flanker (Real Groovy)

Nick Smith's images of New Zealand society and relationships are not easy listening; he pulls no punches in his lyrics, which are sung with a powerful, disturbingly anguished, choked vocal. It's a bitter pill we are asked to swallow, both lyrically and musically. Maybe live the voice is easier to stomach, but here, its harshness swamps the beauty of the acoustic instruments and what melody there is. Smith has picked the best of mentors in Van Morrison, but his singing lacks fluidity; he needs to loosen up. 'Requiem', the EP's centrepiece, shows what he can achieve — however its message for the NZ male is overwhelmed by sourness. What happened to the sensitivity and intelligence, present in the other four songs, he finds lacking in rugby boneheads?

The Economic Wizards The Second Coming (Eelman)

The Economic Wizards have always been great fun, and they can hang a song together too. This four-track EP of raw, witty, boozy R&B — while a letdown after *Starve the Lizards* — accurately reflects their casual charm. Excellent vocals from Jim Steele to classic Chuck Berry riffing and a mean and obscene harp player. In a world dominated by pretension, the true rock and roll spirit of the Wizards is refreshing. Melodies, one-liners, and messages too: "Jesus Christ in blue suede shoes / Leading the dance of the chosen few / Someone tell me what can an atheist do?" ('Fundamental Baby', the best song here.) Funnier than the Johnnys — and more musical too!

Chris Bourke

Rumours

UK & USA

Here they come, walking down the street — the new **Monkees**. The search is on in the US for four young people to become pop stars in a liberated remake of the classic 60s TV series: Girls, you can apply too! ... **Bob Dylan** greeted a contingent of radio programmers backstage after his concert at Madison Square Garden last month. "Are these the people that get to play whatever they want on radio?" he asked, then going on to reminisce about the days when "radio sounded different in every city we went to." Dylan had joined the **Fabulous Thunderbirds** on stage the night before ... the 1965 Dylan film *Don't Look Back* is out on video in the US.

When **Peter Gabriel's** 'Sledgehammer' became No 1 in the States recently, dethroning **Genesis's** 'Invisible Touch', it was the first time a former member of a group had bumped that group off the top spot. (You can have that one, Casey) ... **Rolling Stone, Circus, Hit Parader, Creem** and **Teenbeat** are among the youth-corrupting magazines removed from the shelves of 800 US supermarkets as a spinoff to the anti-sex-and-violence-in-music campaign ... **Simply Red** are zipping up the black music charts.

Jesus and Mary Chain re-emerge with their first single of 1986, 'Some Candy Talking', in 7" and 12" plus a double pack 7" with four acoustic numbers recorded at a John Peel session ... the **BBC** has conceded defeat in its fight with the UK record companies over paying for rock videos. The

record companies asked for £500 a video, but compromised for a lump-sum annual payment of £150,000, which allows them to use as many videos as they wish. Will we have to wait till the mythical third channel arrives? ... **Sigue Sigue Sputnik** recently cancelled their entire UK tour, claiming poor sales were not the reason. Rather, playing large venues would go against everything they ever stood for, they said. Such integrity.

Jumpin' Jack Flash is a new movie to be produced by **Keith Richards**; singing the title track will be **Aretha Franklin**. Also look out for her duet with **George Michael**, ex-Wham!

Elvis Costello has got another album due out in late-September, called *Blood and Chocolate*, plus he'll be back on the road in Britain, Europe and America in November ... in Japan, the **Sex Pistols** have been released on compact disc ... Springsteen's drummer **Max Weinberg** gave an odd one-off performance in London recently: a one-man show, in which he talked about the E Street Band, showed videos of the *Born in the USA* tour — and gave a drumming demonstration. That'll be five quid, please.

Kiwis in Britain: **Chris Thompson**, who formerly sang with Manfred Mann, has released his first solo album ... **Johnny Devlin**, NZ's Elvis, starts a major club tour of the UK this month, playing a rock and roll revival show with backup band the London Rockers. In his heyday, Devlin toured with the Beatles, Chuck Berry, Ricky Nelson and Gerry and the Pacemakers.

Auckland

After months of work by **Karyn**

Hay and Annabel Carr, the petition calling for a quota of New Zealand music to be played on New Zealand radio stations was delivered to the Minister of Broadcasting **Jonathan Hunt** late last month. We will now have to wait until the Royal Commission on Broadcasting reports back in September for the next instalment in this long-running battle for our musicians to be heard on our own radio stations.

Musicians are eligible for a free listing in the directory of the music industry **Sound Advice**, which is currently being put together. But you've got to be quick! The closing date for entries to the directory is August 22. So if you're a muso who wants your talents listed for people to contact you with work, ring Ashley on 09-491-607 now!

Stimulant Records, the local team who broke Princess on the New Zealand market, are looking for "exciting young vocalists, who must have an interest in soul, with a view to recording." Write to Stimulant, Box 6589, Auckland ... **Ross Mullins** of Last Man Down has a new LP out on Ode in September, *This Sporting Life* ... look out for **Death Korporation's** multimedia shows, incorporating films, slides, and "Industrial-type music" from Bruce and Peter. Also from Peter is **Investigative** magazine, with articles on the B52s, Residents and Andy Warhol. First issue is free from Portobello Pdns, Box 87-129, Meadowbank. The **P-Tahs** and **Death Korp** will soon have tapes out, recorded on 8-track.

Abel Ogden's **Graham Humphries** and **Te Kani Kani**, are working together on a production involving film, live music and dance. Watch for them at the Maidment next month ... the **Cascade Bar** is

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