

# SINGLES bar

**Terence Trent D'Arby**  
**'If You Let Me Stay'**  
(CBS 7" & 12")

I'm a sucker for any song with a spoken intro and this is no exception, and combined with the 60s organ break and James Brown exclamations I'm sold on this one. A real hip-shaker from the angelic looking Mr D'Arby.

**The Cult**  
**'Lil' Devil' (Virgin 12")**

No mercy shown on this rocker. In the fine tradition of AC/DC, the Cult let the backbeat do the talking. Plus there's a live version of 'She Sells Sanctuary' and the non-Rubin production of 'Zap City', which just proves how Mr Rick made the Cult def.

**Ruby Turner**  
**'I'd Rather Go Blind'**  
(Festival 12")

My fave from the album, and one of the better interpretations of Etta James' great soul ballad. Intense enough that you believe what she says. Also, a nice shot at Smokey's 'Oooh Baby Baby.'

**Paul Johnson**  
**'When Love Comes Calling'**  
(CBS 12")

Another British soul boy, not as immediate as T T D'Arby but

perhaps a little deeper. His roots lie in gospel and the London Community Choir, and the sweetness of his voice comes from this training. But this song has more to do with bedrooms than the insides of churches, though I don't think that will put you off.

**Diana Ross**  
**'Dirty Looks' (EMI 7" & 12")**

It's amazing how younger Miss Ross gets with every album cover. Pity the song isn't up to much: a touch of heavy breathing and a remixed bassline do not automatically spell "hit record." But check out the album for her version of 'Mr Lee,' real good.

**Hot Chocolate**  
**'Every One's a Winner'**  
(EMI 12")

Yes, I'm a big fan, but I hope they don't remix every one of their old records, they stand as great soul just as they are. But of course this one is a groove just like 'Sexy Thing.'

**Miki Howard**  
**'Imagination' (WEA 7")**

In the mould of Whitney and Anita, a lovely ballad that should find someone's G-spot. I've taken a liking to her debut album *Come Share My Love*, well worth a listen.

**Chris Isaak**  
**'You Owe Me Some Kind of Love' (WEA 7")**

Former male model makes a great psychotic record, simmering with hatred and arrogance.

Sounds neat on a jukebox and puts you in a great mood for the day. One of my favourites.

**The Stems**  
**'At First Sight' (Festival 7")**

Strangely described as power pop, but it sounds as if your radio batteries are running down. One of these dirgey guitar things that Australians seem to specialise in. Hey fellas: next stop Haight-Ashbury!

**Prince**  
**'If I Was Your Girlfriend'**  
(Paisley Park 7")

Now this is real power pop, a great bit of princely perversity about sexual roles and being in luv. This sort of slinks around and messes with your mind and body. The B-side has this rhythm thang called 'Shockadelica' that really cuts it up.

**Kerry Buchanan**

## SHAKE SUMMATION

**This Boy Rob**  
**'Crazy Notions' (Pagan 12")**

An unusual, reflective five-track EP that should be the subliminal student radio hit of 1987; the commercials don't have the patience or the taste. John Fraser and Greg

Johnson are really doing something different. These songs are haunting and captivating, with a lot more depth than "ambient" would suggest. Johnson has a melancholic voice reminiscent of Scritti Politti, supported by simple backing: sad flugelhorn, cool sax, gentle bass and discreet drum machine. Life ticks away for the 'Shirt and Tie Man,' spend 'Hours of Waste' daydreaming to delicate guitar and organ wash, with jazzy horn and organ swinging against the flow. Excellent clear sympathetic production by Mark Tierney and Paul Casserly at BFM's studio. Another stimulating release from Pagan: the Devil does have the best music.

**Aotearoa**  
**'Revolution' (Jayrem 7")**

A gospel ballad with a gentle, imploring vocal made for commercial radio (good luck) and edited down to 2'35" especially, though I could have taken another verse. Good sax and slick production from Dennis Mason. 'Whakarongo' is spirited and uplifting, leaping out with the energy and determination of a haka. Fighting talk, heavy on the vocals with a funk bass.

**Knightshade**  
**'The Physical You'**  
(Reaction 12")

Any fears that Knightshade are the poppier end of NZ heavy rock are unfounded: they can sound

like the inside of a jet engine. 'The Physical You' and 'Losin' Your Love' have celestial choral vocals and flashy guitar solos, which aren't saying much though. I prefer the more upbeat 'Leaving' and 'Caroline,' with the pace and menace cranked up several notches. *Out of the Count* had better songs, but good grunt from Mandrill, and clever cartoons of Wayne, Alan, Gavin, John & Rik too!

**Flesh D-Vice**  
**'Transmission' (FDV 7")**

Led by a coiling lead and woolly bass, with a muffled vocal, this has an edge and power not on the video. The chorus gets things going, but it's all over very quickly. 'Strange TV,' recorded live at the Terminus on Halloween night 1985, takes the intensity to worrying levels. Mind-numbing, cell-destroying bass, there's a good rock and roll guitarist there struggling to get out. Can't quite get the TV connection, unless it's waking up to a snowy screen and white noise with a metho's hangover. Stay off the petrol guys!

**Chris Bourke**

# Knightshade

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