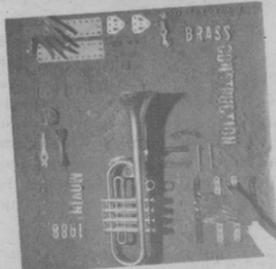


SMASH HITS!



SHO NUFF FUNKY
Afrika Bambaataa & Family



MOVIN 1988
Brass Construction



WHISPER
Schnell-Fenster



**WHEN THE SKY COMES
TUMBLIN' DOWN**
Brian Setzer



NO CONVERSATION
View From The Hill



DA' BUTT
E.U.



RUSH HOUR
Jane Wiedlin

Available in NZ NOW!!

Shona: U.S. News Report

Apart from technical hitches, the most significant thing that has gone wrong on the Shona Laing tour of America was when they left their bassist Paul Clayton behind near Pittsburgh ...

Said Laing from San Francisco last week: "It doesn't sound very funny, but in context with everything else that wasn't going our way, it was very funny. We left Paul behind at a Roy Rogers [takeaway] on the way to Pittsburgh, and didn't realise that he wasn't on the bus for about two-and-a-half hours." The unassuming Clayton, who was coming home midway through the tour anyway, usually slept during the bus trips. In the middle of nowhere, he rang Shona's husband in New Zealand to find out what to do next.

Battling the technical obstacles, and succeeding, meant the Pittsburgh gig has been the most memorable, said Laing. Some of their tape equipment has been playing up during the tour: "We took the box to a Midi doctor today and he said, it's just that



we've got 240 volt gear running through a transformer, so there isn't a clear steady current."

The band have only had to call upon "Plan B" — guitarist Dave

McArtney doing a few solo songs — once. "Dave's an absolute asset," says Laing. "Every day he's enjoying himself more, and the better he knows the songs, the more free he feels."

Most of the dates Laing has played as support act for Erasure; some of the gigs have been in front of as many as 10,000 people. "They're not college crowds, more young, beautiful and middle class. And blonde." The audiences have been very responsive, some knowing words to 'Soviet Snow' from the occasional screenings on MTV.

Laing says about a dozen key Top 40 stations are spot-playing 'Soviet Snow' now, with the core support on the East Coast; she would like to return there for some club dates. "We found out today that 'Kennedy' is being played in Boston of all places [the stronghold of the clan] on the third biggest Top 40 station, and they're loving it."

Laing says her American record company TV Toons is a small outfit similar to Pagan; they only have five acts, their biggest success being with the 1986 TV themes record. "The label manager Steve Gottlieb seems to have a Midas

touch. But he seems to be breaking ground. It's quite exciting." An ad for Laing's *South* appeared on the cover of a July *Billboard*.

"The chart is looking hopeful. It really is a big country — driving across, you realise how different it is from state to state, and coordination is crucial. With a small label, there will be a lot of luck involved if it goes Top 40."

Chris Bourke

ON TAPE

Cactus Club (Cactus Club)

From way down south but not what you'd expect from a Dunedin group. An eight-piece band with a horn section, percussion and skanking bass lines. Ska/soul/reggae, tight and energetic, moody but fun, pop music with a lot of human feeling, delivered with the power of the Newmatics seven years ago. Cactus Club sing about our times, as in 'Save the Whales' and 'Can't Stop the Tide.' The lyrics sheet reads a bit like a creed for the new age and comes close to preaching to the converted. Don't get me wrong though, the music is very good and delivered with a lot of soul. Ask for this one at your record shops, or write 105 High St. Dunedin.

Lawrence Landwer-Johan

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

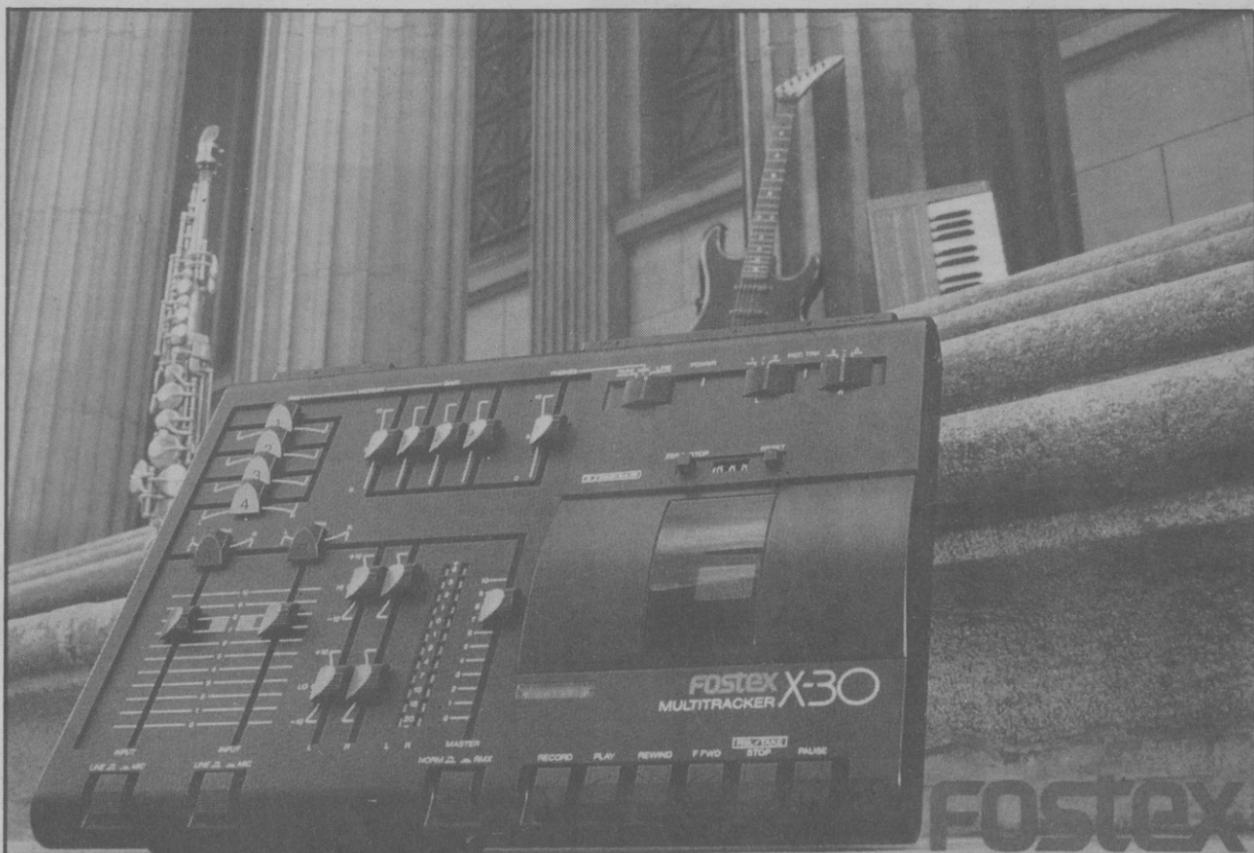


drum
workshop
pedals

drums
dw

EXCLUSIVE NZ DISTRIBUTORS:
HARBORNE & ARTHUR
MUSIC CENTRE

228 Ponsonby Road, Auckland
(09) 766-165, 790-960, 762-169



Fostex X-30 THE COMPLETE STUDIO

Distributed by Custom Music Ltd, PO Box 9648, Newmarket, Auckland.