

bpm); God knows why, they sound completely different, maybe it's the label-colour or something. Anyway, 'So Many Ways' is subtitled 'Do It Properly part 2' and is COLE and CLIVENTE's follow on from their own underground hit out in '87. Sufficient to say that this one's got the same riffs and bassline as part one, which in turn was nicked (of course) from ADONIS's 'No Way Back.'

Suffering no less from sticky fingers and in a similar but more London style is CUT THE Q's 'Stereo Show' (120 bpm). This is good but maybe not good enough.

In a more traditional vein, READY FOR THE WORLD's 'My Girly' (108 bpm) has a naff title but is probably their best single since 'Oh Sheila' some years back. I really like BOBBY BROWN's second single from his hot *Don't Be Cruel* album. 'My Prerogative' (109 bpm) is a slick urban track in the current style of people like TONY TERRY, KEITH SWEAT and GUY. It's currently at the top of the US black chart. Buy the LP! The new guy single 'Round And Round' (106 bpm) is not as immediate as the first, 'Groove Me', but it grows. Once again, buy the album, it should be out here any day. Finally, the new CAMEO single 'You Make Me Work' from the new album *Machismo* is a bit of a disappointment, sounding pretty much like everything else they've done in the last four years. Maybe it'll grow, too. Maybe Larry Blackmon should steal a few new ideas.

SIMON GRIGG

first story) ... Peter Rees' deceptively simple and elegantly crafted work has more in common with the lineage of comics that gives the world George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, the Brothers Hernandez's *Love & Rockets*, Chester Brown's *Yummy Fur* and Bob Burden's *Flaming Carrot*, amongst others (if these names mean nothing to you, get down to your local comic specialist shop and give yourself a treat).

But don't just take my word for it; both the prestigious *Escape* (comics of style and vision) in the UK and Gary Groth's *Fantagraphics* (publisher of *The Comics Journal*, *Love & Rockets*, *Prime Cuts*, etc) in the US have requested further work from Rees for publication and dissemination throughout their respective masses ... which just goes to show that "some toys don't need batt'ries ... they go on their own!"

So don't wait and pay import prices — support local talent now! *Toys* is available at all good comic shops (if not, ask) or by mail from Quid Pro Quo, c/- 321 Ashgrove Terrace, Christchurch, for \$2.50 plus \$1 post and packing. Give *Toys* this Christmas!
IAN DALZIEL

ART DEKKO 1 & 2 Andrew & Roger Langridge (Stand Up Comix)

Meanwhile back in Auckland a binary star is in ascendance. The dynamic duo of Roger and Andrew Langridge as Stand Up Comix have so far this year produced 2 issues of their excellent *Art Dekko* comic, featuring Arthur P. Dekko (esq.), bon vivant and man about town, and his sidekick (emphasis on the "kick") the not so triangular Gump. With these two it's always repartee-party time ranging from the basic knock-knock joke to the more conceptual graphic workouts. The Langridges love both the language and the mechanics of comics, constantly tinkering with both, resulting in some fun puns and thoroughly minced word plays — they win some and you wince some.

Their inspirational catchment is large with references to and from a diverse selection of modern music, art, television and comics (of course). I'd compare the feel of it with the mixed output of the likes of Bill Elder, Harvey Kurtzman (we're talking early *Mad* and *Help* here), Will Eisner, George Herriman ... I'll stop there, and we're not talking swipes, just reverence; these guys have their own style. Issue 2 (32 pages) shows a developed and more confident approach to inking which is not to detract from issue 1 (28 pages).

I look forward to future work, I understand they will be in the forthcoming *NZ Comic Gazette Yearbook*, roll on issue 3. Take a Dekko yourself at your local comic shop or write direct to; Arthur P. Dekko (Esq), 102 Cliff View Drive, Green Bay, Auckland 7. \$1.50 each plus 70 cents for the stamp.
IAN DALZIEL

PRINT

TOYS by Peter Rees (Quid Pro Quo Prod.)

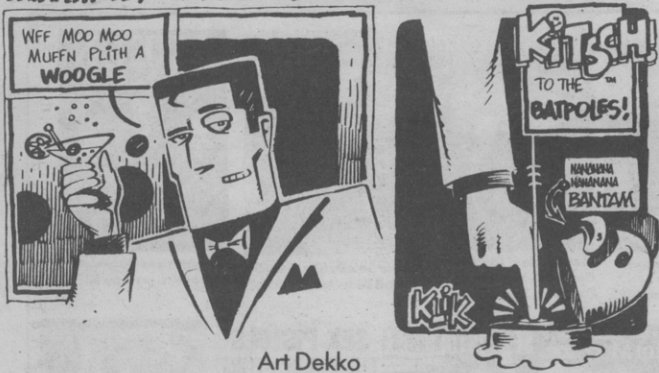
Look up New Zealand, there's a new star in comics heaven tonight. Everything about this self-published 24-page gem radiates quality. Clean, crisp printing on good stock paper, very tight and evocative illustration and writing elevate the two very different stories of adolescence and self-realisation into the upper echelon of 20th century narrative art (no foolin').

Forget about the teenage mutants, intergalactic battles and the other trappings of the bulk of mainstream comics (admittedly there is a duck in the



Toys

MEANWHILE, IN A MORE INTERESTING PART OF THE CITY...



Art Dekko

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B R A G G



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