

WRITE TO: RIU LETTERS,
PO BOX 5689, AUCKLAND 1

Rank & Rile

On the subject of your review of the Smiths' *Rank* album, I believe that some points need to be clarified. Firstly your writer notes that it is surprising that two songs appear for a third time on *Rank*. A live performance usually includes a majority of songs that are part of a band's latest album. Therefore find it not surprising in the least that these two songs are present.

Also a fact missed by your reviewer is that this is the third record 'Still Ill' has appeared on; following *The Smiths* it was on the radio session collection *Haful Of Hollow*. It is subtle to differentiate between album, single compilation and live record releases.

Your reviewer seems to criticise the live version of some songs as not being as subtle as the band's studio releases. By God, this was a live performance — if the audience had wished for studio versions they could have stayed at home with their treasured vinyl. I agree that Smiths studio releases are superior but what do you expect? *Rank* should be reviewed on the basis of being a live album. And if Johnny Marr wanted a bit of extra guitar on the album, he should be applauded. I mean, Johnny Marr was the Smiths.

Frankly, Mr Starky

Strait Restraint

I am writing regarding the Straitjacket Fits article in November's *Rip It Up*. A comment made by me during an interview with Angela Jonasson referred to Terry Moore, the producer of our debut album, as "dictatorial."

I wish to withdraw that statement as it is inaccurate and was at the time an instance of thoughtless expression. For Terry and the band the recording of an album was a new venture and, ultimately, a learning experience. Inevitably over three months of recording, the project had its low periods. One often tends to unfairly point fingers when perhaps unreasonable expectations are not met. The comment made was a reflection of this and, in retrospect, unjustified.

Andrew Brough



Roy Orbison (2nd from right) in recent project, the Travelling Willburys.

ROY ORBISON DIES

Roy Orbison died of a heart attack on the night of December 7. The 52 year-old singer was admitted to Hendersonville hospital in Nashville just before midnight and died a few minutes later.

Annie Lennox's baby was stillborn in a London hospital this month. The 33 year-old Eurythmics singer was reported as being "devastated" by the loss.

Michael Jackson has cancelled five sold-out Los Angeles shows because of a throat infection... George Michael is signed up to write and perform a new Diet Coca Cola jingle. The once tubby singer lost a stone with Diet Coke but will gain "5 million pounds" (that's cash, folks) for the commissioned jingle... the CIA are using Rod Stewart songs to send coded messages over the Iron Curtain! That's the latest news from the UK tabloids anyway. Rod's new single 'Maggie The Warhead Is In The Third Oil Freighter It Is Guarded Hot Legs' is selling well in Moscow...

Whitney Houston has been accused of attacking a fan at a Hong Kong concert. The fan tried to photograph Whitney but she "leapt into the crowd and started screaming and kicking him." Action Houston! We always knew you had it in ya... no-one will release the new John Lee Hooker album *The Healer* even though it features guests Carlos Santana, George Thorogood and Robert Cray... Ron Wood sued *The Sun* and won. *The Sun* had accused him of adultery...

RIP IT UP NEW ADDRESS

From Dec 1 Rip It Up Magazine offices will be at 15 Williamson Ave, Grey Lynn. Phone numbers will not change.

'Stranded' in Bookshops

The long-awaited history of NZ pop music, *Stranded In Paradise* is finally in bookstores now. The 352 page book is heavily illustrated and covers from the 50s to the 80s. Author John Dix has organised the publishing of the book himself and it's been printed and bound just in time for Xmas. At last there's a document about what happened, where and when to major NZ talents from Johnny Devlin to Split Enz to Toy Love.

To celebrate the launch of this cultural milestone, there's a gig at the Gluepot Wednesday Dec 14 with living Enzed legends Hello Sailor, Hammond Gamble and Rick Bryant and friends.

Look for *Stranded In Paradise* at your local bookstore now or see mail order in this issue of *Rip It Up*.

R. W. P. R. I. P.

With another year coming to an end the folks in TV Land must be scratching their heads. What to do with that lazy child of theirs, *Radio With Pictures*? The show has sagged to an all-time low this year, one of the few things on the box that's less gripping than *Friday Night*.

R With P began as a half-breed, a dump-bin for video clips too adult for *Ready To Roll*. But around the time of punk, that alternative was where the excitement lay in music — *R With P* accrued credibility as an alternative and, by default rather than design, came to fill an "adult" niche in the music market. With the pop boom and consequent video crazes of the early 80s came a new credibility — music videos were entertaining by themselves.

But in recent years, 1988 more than ever, *R With P* has become a white elephant. *RTR Countdown* screens the mainstream pop. *Heartbeat City* (fronted by the usual 70s and sexist opening credits — a blonde woman in a convertible, give us a break...) which began as a new dump-bin, now debuts the latest video clips. The new Pet Shop Boys clip screened on *Heartbeat City*. So did Ellis, Beggs & Howard, plus a couple more.

What is left for *R With P*? Crap, mostly;

visually bland clips, dull music, and hasty retrospectives. One *R With P* "special" devoted to "lovers' laments" this year was particularly infuriating. Think of all the new artists you wanted to suss out on video this year — we got Lynn of Tawa.

The format of the show has become increasingly ragged. *R With P* is a weird example of a programme that has become less professional as it has aged. If its 70-watt, stumbling presentation is an in-joke, nobody's laughing. The interviews are patchy and uncomfortable and often (as was the case with the Jagger interview) screened too late. Television is the medium of what's happening now, after all — trends, gossip, news are its principle fuels.

We have read that Dick Driver will not be returning to *R With P* in 1989, but whoever fronts the show only acts as a temporary heat-sink for the blame. *R With P* has had many presenters over the years, but the production problems remain constant. The quality of trends and music videos have covered a multitude of sins.

So what to do with that neglected orphan? Perhaps I've watched it too long, and a younger wave of viewers craves its every second with enthusiasm... but I doubt it. There is still room in TVNZ's broadcasting schedule for a new, informative, good-humoured music video programme. In the meantime we are stuck with *Radio With Pictures*, that scrappy assortment which you have to fast forward through before settling down to watch the Sunday Science Fiction on Monday evenings.

CT

PLAY LIST



PAUL KEAN
The Bats

1. BEAT HAPPENING, Jamboree (LP) — USA indie band who we shared gigs with in Europe. Minimalist melodic pop, very human.
2. FRIPP & ENO, No Pussyfooting (LP) — Ambient music with emotional guitar play by Fripp and modifications and additions from Eno. Great on the walkman during long journeys, it transforms the corridors of passage. Time-slip.
3. THE BEACH BOYS, Best Of (LP) — Maybe it's only nostalgia. "God only knows." Thanks, Brian Wilson.
4. THE TERMINALS, INTO THE VOID — Live at the Subway, ChCh! Excellent night, I look forward to the *Terminals'* new release. Into the Void must record; Paul Sutherland, stretched electronics, art meets rock 'n' roll.
5. WEST COAST POP ART EXPERIMENTAL BAND, Transparent Day (LP) — psychedelic pop from the 60s.
6. RADIO UFM — It'd be great if they didn't play some of the junk; just because it's local, just because it's black, just because it's an import. Music is music.

50 SILLY BAND NAMES

1. Guns And Butter
2. Geno Washington & The Ram Jam Band
3. The High Revving Tongues
4. Crispy Ambulance
5. Strawberry Alarm Clock
6. Peanut Butter Conspiracy
7. Skip Bifferty
8. The Ken Colyer Skiffle Group
9. Moby Grape
10. Lucas And The Mike Cotton Sound
11. Dermot O'Brian & The Club Men
12. Spanky & The Gang
13. Granny's Intentions
14. Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band
15. Squibby & The Reflections
16. The New Christy Minstrels
17. Herbie Going & The Night-Timers
18. Incredible String Band
19. Cat Mother and the All-Night New Boys
20. Fluff
21. Honeybus
22. Crocheted Doughnut Ring

23. The Love Strings Of Mort Garson
24. The Wally Stott Choral
25. Giant Sunflower
26. The Orange Seaweed
27. Haphash & The Coloured Coat
28. Violent Thimble
29. Boeing Duveen & Beautiful Soup
30. The Serendipity Singers
31. The Flower Pot Men
32. Highway Chile
33. Mouse And The Traps
34. Stiff Kittens
35. Shag Nasty
36. Zen Bastards
37. Astronauties
38. Dumpty's Rusty Nuts
39. Killer Dwarfs
40. Sigue Sigue Sputnik
41. Slaughter And The Dogs
42. The Wackers
43. Insect Trust
44. Pink Fairies
45. Athletico Spizz '80
46. Punishment of Luxury
47. Peppermint Trolley Company
48. Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich
49. The Nipple Erectors
50. Magic Mushrooms

Straightjacket Fits



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RHYTHM & BLUES STAGESHOW

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| Fri/Sat Dec 9-10 Cricketers, WELLINGTON | Wed Dec 28 GISBORNE |
| Tue Dec 13 Eltham Town Hall, ELTHAM | Thu Dec 29 De Luxe Theatre, OPOTIKI |
| Wed Dec 14 Plymouth Sun Hotel, NEW PLYMOUTH | Fri Dec 30 Otumoetai, TAURANGA |
| Thu/Fri Dec 15-16 Le Bom Nightclub, AUCKLAND | Sat Dec 31/Sun Jan 1 Le Bom Nightclub, AUCKLAND |
| Sat Dec 17 Outdoor Concert, KAIKOHE (with Ardijah) | Mon Jan 2 Eilerslie Racecourse, AUCKLAND (Auckland Cup Day). |
| Tue Dec 20 Cinderella's, TOKOROA | Tue Jan 3 Tutukaka Hotel, TUTUKAKA |
| Wed Dec 21 Hyatt Kingsgate, ROTORUA | Wed Jan 4 Mangawhai Hotel, MANGAWHAI |
| Thu Dec 22 HAMILTON | Thu Jan 5 Gluepot, AUCKLAND |
| Fri/Sat Dec 23/24 Mt Maunganui Hotel, MT MAUNGANUI | Fri/Sat Jan 6/7 Mt Maunganui Hotel, MT MAUNGANUI |
| Mon Dec 26 Cabana, NAPIER | |
| Tue Dec 27 Snobbz Nitespot, HASTINGS | |