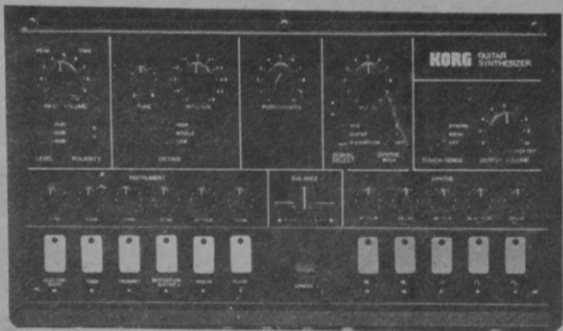


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PHOTO BY JEREMY TEMPLER

LETTERS

Post to RIU LETTERS, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1. Best wins an LP Voucher.

Could you supply me with some information to solve my problem?

I am a PUNK at the moment, but, in trying to keep up with the latest trends, I wish to become a MOD.

- As none of my friends are keen to try it:
- a) Can MODs be bought from England?
- b) Are they expensive?
- c) Is it possible to import them?
- d) Is there any duty or sales tax?

Thanks so much.

Nearly Mod Brooklyn, Wellington

July's *Let's Cock-Up An Advertisement Award* should be won by *Rip It Up* and Putaruru Press. How did you manage to give Eric Clapton his best record cover since *EC Woz Hear*?

Does this ad mean that Messrs Judd, Stiggs and Hillman actually appear on *Just One Night* or are they only on the cover to boost sales? I'm looking forward to hearing the Swingers play "Layla" or on the other hand, EC trying to play "Yellow Star".

My bet is Polygram were thrilled.

A Swinging Single St Albans

P.S. The Vauxhalls have not split. Their EP *Movies* should be out soon. If Propellor or Ripper show any interest, Northerners might be able to hear some Southern pop!

What does Heavy Rock Fan of Tauranga think he's on about? Kiss are disco, Led Zeppelin are fossils, Lynyrd Skynyrd are dead.

I suggest he lets his eardrums have a treat and listen to some real heavy rock bands like Triumph, Marseille, Iron Maiden, Saxon etc. before Kicssco rots his brain.

Heavy Metal is making a resurgence and Tauranga and other places should wake up to the fact and start listening to Motorhead etc.

Heavy Metal Hugh Miramar

I can remember the time when staying up late to see *Radio With Pictures* used to be an event. Now, since this new pretender's come along, all I ask, is for the show to change its name, to let the original rest in peace.

Joe Smooth Invercargill

I am writing this letter so that any inferior individual, who has not been privileged enough to have had a letter printed in *RIU*; can go up to their friends, show-off and say — 'Look I wrote that!'

ME New Zealand

I think David Bowie, Eno and John Foxx are JERKS!

Gary Numan Karori

SMALL ADS

\$1.00 per line. Send copy and payment (prior to publication), to RIU, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.

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London Calling LIVE DEVO

The Venue, opposite Victoria station, is designed to be something like the Roxy on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. At the Roxy on a good night you can sit back and watch Dave Edmunds or the Ramones while a waitress brings your Pino Colada. Only at a place like the Masque or San Francisco's Deaf Club do American rock audiences get anything like audiences here. English audiences tend to prefer the less stuffy atmosphere of the Nashville or the Electric Ballroom where you can stand or dance and the prices are cheaper than the Venue.

Maybe there's some truth in a Virgin employee's claim that the Greater London Council imposes the Venue's minimum ticket price of \$7.50NZ in an apparent effort to "keep the punks out". But that doesn't explain the steep \$12.75NZ to see Devo at the venue. That includes a \$1.50NZ booking fee at the Virgin record store. Devo is, yes, on Virgin Records and the Venue, incidentally, is owned by Virgin Records. Perhaps the highest ticket prices allow the Venue its reputation as a press hang-out. Another great rock'n'roll swindle? That — as Virgin would no doubt quickly add — is showbiz.

Devo's show, as it happens, is almost value for money. It starts with films — the first introducing Booji Boy and the General (who tells Booji the time has come for the world to know the truth about de-evolution). Enter Devo, that's D-E-V-O — rock's caped crusaders, machines with a mission.

"Jocko Homo" is followed by filmclips of "(Can't Get Me No) Satisfaction", "The Day My Baby Gave Me A Surprise", and two from the new album "Girl U Want" and "Freedom of Choice". "Girl U Want" in particular shows a more FM-conscious Devo with a possible (US) hit in the Cheap Trick mould of sugarpuff pop.

Devo takes the stage wearing plant pot hats to begin with songs from the new album. Things didn't start smoothly when the US flag Devo Mark Mothersbaugh waved low over the heads of the audience was torn from its staff. And then when Mothersbaugh ripped up his padded uniform in "Swelling Itching Brain" the audience was suspiciously quick to help him. Devo changed uniforms and overcame all with an absurd, clever, and above all professional performance. "Freedom of Choice" (with Devo, in Hitler masks) was the encore, there were more films, a "goodnight spuds" and a final "We Are All Devo!". Then "Devo Corporate Anthem".

Devo once considered de-evolution and its associated theories (cathonic progress and fluid catharsis) important enough to refuse interviews to English journalists who didn't take it seriously. Simply stated Devo's theories on de-evolution amount to a reaction against man's evolutionary direction. De-evolutionaries — or, more simply, devo-tees — seek to remind the machine-worshippers (in Devo Jerry Casale's words) of the "the belch, the fart and the belly laugh".* Devo aim to inject "some notion of the transcendent" into the lives of the technocrats. The technocrats, those ruled by the machine-worshippers are described by Casale as "unthinking slaves of the organic processes they do not understand (who) live only to reproduce themselves".

You didn't have to understand de-evolution to enjoy Devo's concert. De-evolution was reduced to the simplest of platitudes, a call and answer response any blockhead could join in: Are We Not Men? We Are Devo!

Devo must repeat

Jeremy Templer

* Taken from Casale's *Didactical Works re De-evolution* which appeared in *CLE*, an American fanzine.

Keep Our Cities Beautiful Award
Every month RIU will publish the best band poster mailed to the office.
The Tecthones poster was designed by Joe Wylie.

