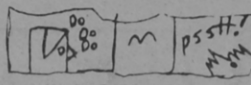


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4 5 s

Pete Shelley
Homosapien (Island)
 First solo single for Mr Shelley, of the legendary Buzzcocks. This song is indeed wonderful. Gone are guitars, in come the synthesizers, and with Martin Rushent producing, you can't go wrong. The flip is 'Keats' Song', another fine cut from the album.

Fun Boy Three
The Lunatics (Have Taken Over The Asylum) (Chrysalis)

Messrs Golding, Hall and Staples with their debut as a three-piece. Reminiscent of the excellent 'Ghost Town', 'The Lunatics' is slower, more political, and almost as good. 'Faith, Hope and Charity' on the other side is a warped, funk workout, equally tasty.

The Riptides
Only Time (Regular)

An Australian unit, this is taken from their mini-album *Swept Away*. Average 60s surf-style music, frantic but fun. These guys must be big in Queensland.

Billy Idol

Mony Mony (Chrysalis)
 Generation X frontman Idol steps out on his own with this four-track EP, aimed at the American market. His competent vocals lift the old Tommy James



rip-off vocals and a bit of early Roxy woodwind. The flip, 'Helluva Day', is better.

Max Purnell
Yes With Love (RCA)

Max Purnell is from the Auckland suburb of Avondale. The song is concerned with protest marches. Acoustic guitar, a solid drum beat, and inaudible lyrics. Quite nice, but a trifle dated.

The Mirrors
The Park (CBS)

The Mirrors try to achieve a big sound, and 'The Park' has it. Very West Coast American, which let's face it, is where they'd like to be. Not my cup of tea.

The Narcs
EP (XSF)
 The Narcs are rapidly building a strong live following. This EP features four songs, 'Hey Boy', 'Queenstown', 'Here She Comes' and 'First Chance To Dance'. All are flash, brash, loud and heavy, and the last song is strong, single fare. They could be really big across the Tasman.

David Parkyn
From The Resistance (Tindrum)

David Parkyn is an ex member of the Plague. This 12-inch EP moves a little in areas I'm unfamiliar with. The closest comparison I could make would probably be Tim Buckley. Four songs, all featuring the inventive acoustic guitar of Ivan Zagin and the lyrical prowess of Parkyn Interesting.

Knobz
Roads To Rome (WEA)

Another year, another band. After their disastrous album, Knobz return, totally refurbished, to try again. It is a step forward, and there's nothing wrong with the playing or the production. Just the songs.

Mark Phillips
Nice Peaceful Day (Epic)
 A lot of people like these guys, they're energetic and fun on stage. This is their third single, and will probably be a hit like 'Disadvantage'. Small Faces

rip-off vocals and a bit of early Roxy woodwind. The flip, 'Helluva Day', is better.

Riot III
Subversive Radicals (Rioting)
 Hey, this sounds neat. Whoops, wrong speed. 'Subversive Element' is interesting, angry and sparse. 'Writing On The Wall' is denser, and works only because the bass player is quite competent. Wonder how they'd sound if he was as inept as the rest of them.

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L I V E

Brown Trout Festival
Waitahora Valley,
 Jan 23-25.

An unpretentious, cosy gathering of about 2500 people, the fourth Brown Trout Festival took place on Wellington's Anniversary weekend, in Waitahora Valley, near Dannevirke.

Kicking the festival off were the Wellington-based Manga-wekas, with a wise selection of lively, danceable, R&B numbers. Saturday afternoon brought on the Instigators, a five-piece ska/rock band from Auckland, who were plagued by mixing problems. Nonetheless, they were an immediate success with their irresistible dance beat and somewhat bitter lyrical content.

The Midge Marsden Connection took prime time on Sunday night, with an eager and receptive audience, thoroughly warmed up by a good day's music. Midge harped his way on stage with 'Little Red Rooster', setting a pace that didn't relax during the 90-minute set. The crowd was just as enthusiastic, raising an eye-watering dust cloud to 'Route 66' and Midge's own 'Jive Talk'.

The perverse weather experienced all weekend culminated in an untimely downpour straight after Midge. For those who persevered, Monday brought the sun and an inspired performance from the Neighbours. The highlight was a heartwarming rendition of Bobby Bland's 'Yolanda', with Rick Bryant displaying his strong, soulful voice to an engrossed audience.

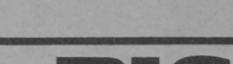
Mention must also be made of Taihape's Daggy and the Dickheads, who stole Saturday night with their tight Stones and Costello covers. Credit too, to portly MC Ian Watkins' timely appearances and witticisms.

A small crowd, an intimate and relaxing atmosphere, and the chance to view local talent. Let's hope that Brown Trout will continue in this form as an annual event.
 Susie Fraser

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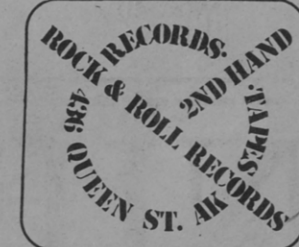
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