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With AK.82 on the cover, it's deadline day and time to write a little story, publish a few quotes from others and ask readers for their ideas on the subject.

The last few years in AK rock 'n' roll have been a lot of fun and many have grown accustomed to getting their live music highs in sweaty pubs listening to neat NZ songs. Going to Logan Campbell Centre to watch the often tired, perfunctory performances by visiting stars can be tedious work compared with the privilege of being there as good songs are knocked into shape by one of several of the best local bands.

So why are so many persons saying 'it's not exciting anymore?' I dunno, but maybe the Doon's recession has now hit AK central? Is it daylight saving? Why are no 45s by Prime Movers, Bongos, This Sporting Life yet?

On the recording front, Ripper has moved to Wellington, Rem is putting up posters and Propeller is no longer the lively singles label it once was.

Propeller has got a financial problem with the jump from singles to albums," says Simon Grigg. "Financing album depends on the goodwill of recording studios and advances from major record companies."

Grigg has just returned from Australia where he negotiated with Mushroom Publishing. An advance was forthcoming, money that Propeller urgently needed. Both the Blams and the Meemes are recording albums and studio time is not cheap.

Sister label Furtive will release a four band EP soon but no new bands have been signed to Propeller. Grigg does not see finance as the only problem.

There are no innovative bands coming through because there are no underage venues. The Auckland scene will be in a sorry state by later this year if no inventive bands emerge.

But unlike last year, 1982 will



see the release of numerous local albums. Blam Blam Blam, D.D. Smash and the Screaming Meemes albums are near complete and Danse Macabre will record one for Reaction.

And like the indie singles of 1981, they'll sell even if they're not safe enough for Auckland radio. Radio B is playing lots of NZ music but little is new, except Gurlz' excellent 'Legend' ditty and the previously unexposed tracks on B's Ripper compilation *Goats Milk Soap*.

state of the scene?

Harry Ratbag (Rem):
"Trendy, pretentious. Too many people following overseas trends - blitz, billy, bluebeat. What-ever happened to originality and trash?"

Kerry O'Connor (fan):
"A bit stale. I'd like to see more experimentation. A few weird and wonderful noises via percussion and synthesizers."

Nigel Russell (Danse Macabre):
"There aren't enough venues interested in new music. But it's pretty healthy, the major bands around Auckland have never been more diverse."

Mike Corless (NMM):
"It's not as healthy as it should be."

Andrew Boak (Radio B):
"It seems to be getting better but there are mega-problems."

Paul Rose (Furtive):
"Very depressed. Because of the lack of an underage venue, no new bands are coming forward."

Jean Williams (Reverb):
"Musically it's good, lots of bands playing interesting original music, but financially it's disastrous."

One thing is certain, if existing media are inadequate, new means to reach our local audience will be developed. If Auckland radio will not play Enzed music, or venues are empty, new means will be found. And for the live scene to improve substantially, entrepreneurial risk taking must be more equitably shared between the venue, the booking agent and the

what's the matter?

Nigel Russell (Danse Macabre):
"A. The Venues. B. Inflation. The costs involved are so high."

Kerry O'Connor (fan):
"The variety and standard of venues is appalling and audience apathy is rife - too many people staring vacantly into their beer."

Paul Rose (Furtive):
"No underage venue. People are not going out as much as they were and while door charges have not gone up in 12 months, band's running costs have almost doubled. So bands are playing with inferior equipment and they don't have the money to do themselves justice in the recording studio."

Jean Williams (Reverb):
"The availability and cost of equipment due to import restrictions and duty. The tax on local records. Shortage of good venues."

Harry Ratbag (Rem):
"Cabbages! Too many people wanting too much money. Music counts, money helps. Not the other way round."

Mike Corless (NMM):
"Costs. They don't gel with door charges that pub managers try to impose. The fact that bands can't put \$5 on the door is ridiculous."

Andrew Boak (Radio B):
"No one's got any money."

band.
In this issue several persons comment on the current state of the Auckland live scene. Next issue we'd like your ideas for '82 (in a sentence or two) on 'what the Auckland scene needs is...'

Post to RIU, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.
Murray Cammack

my dream for '82

Andrew Boak (Radio B):
"More support from the NZ populace, for more bands, more records and more good venues."

Paul Rose (Furtive):
"FM radio. A permanent licence for Radio B. Less sales tax on records. An underage venue. A non-pub alternative touring circuit."

Kerry O'Connor (fan):
"Less pretention and more frivolity on both sides of the stage."

Nigel Russell (Danse Macabre):
"More venues that cater for newer music. People dictating what they like to see and hear! Not the breweries and radio stations."

Mike Corless (NMM):
"Bands putting more work into their show. The Aussie bands showed up the local bands at Sweetwaters."

Jean Williams (Reverb):
"Opening of new venues and the better use of existing venues. The removal of tax on local records and some imports in record stores."

Harry Ratbag (Rem):
"Cream re-open. Steinlager price fall. A rooftop bar at Queens Ferry. The deporting to Australia of any band that plays more than six Gluepot weekends in a year. And that silly people, stop singing silly songs about yours truly."

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