

Netherworld Dancing Toys Hillsborough, June 14.

There was once a man who refused to slavishly copy his contemporaries. The plaudits of a captious and critical age pronounced him great. Immediately, a mob of imitators rushed to follow in his steps. His name was Kevin Rowland. This chameleon figure devised a number of styles and personas: sweaty soulboy, chaste boxerboy and last year's venture into pastoralism. So what of our very own soulboys?

Dunedin's Netherworld Dancing Toys were a modest hit at Sweetwaters this year. It seems they still want to shake off the Dexys comparison but that will take time. Their covers of Pickett, Brown, Dexys were rather listless and predictable. Basically theirs is a miscegenation of styles: rhythm 'n' blues with added brass. And that's the problem. You begin to realise exactly when the brass will enter and in many cases it only acts as a compulsory adjunct to the songs. At times I found their parading of excessive and somewhat spurious emotion a little untruthful but there were moments (and this could be said of a selection of originals: therein lies the talent of NDT) when the band moulded into a cohesive and quite eruptive force.

So much did the finer talents of their music work on the devotional feelings of a section of their audience that there seemed often

a danger that it would be lost altogether in the response that broke out around them. Yes, they can excite. But whatever you may think, I found them, at length, a bit of a bore. It is only fair to say that if you measured their passion by degrees, it would never reach boiling point.
S.J. Townshend

Letters

Post to 'RIU', PO Box 5689, Auckland 1.

King Slags

At a recent performance by the Birthday Party in Palmerston North there was a gentleman from Auckland disguised as a month-old parmesan cheese who head-butted my humble but homely flat's wall, leaving a hole the size of the cerebrally deficient King Shag's mouth - a most notable feature as we in Palmerston North had cause to observe.

Pardon me, King Tui, and correct me if I'm wrong, but when you mentioned the "drunk", "pissed" students was there not one more drunkard who "just didn't understand"? I have it on good authority that the Birthday Party set in Palmerston North was far better than the show at Victoria.

It surely is a pity you drank for the Massey concert. You missed

the band of the millenium. Better you had missed whatever mode of transport brought you from your guano rookery to Massey.

Quentin Bright Palmerston North

Shucks

Congratulations to Peter Thomson on his Joni Mitchell article (April RIU). It told me far more than any of the arrogant, analytical assholes who plaster the pages of NME and Rolling Stone ever could. Keep up the good work, so that every now and then we can read something of real substance.

Martin S. Henderson Christchurch

Calling All Capitalists

Your magazine seems to better itself with each new edition. I find nothing better than a hot bath, stretched out with a corned beef and hot English mustard sandwich in one hand a copy of RIU in the other. You should try it - it's a very satisfying experience.

The other night (in the bath) it suddenly dawned on me that I know of no outlet for collectors (and would-be) of band posters, used or unused, of current and/or defunct bands. Surely this could be a profitable venture not only for the organiser but also the bands concerned.

It seems a great pity to see them reduced to fire-starters when they could grace the walls of many a house. Obviously I'm a collector but there's a lot I miss out on and I'm prepared to pay reasonable prices - there must be more like me.

Can you oblige or can I help? Charmaine Stewart 27A Queen Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington

Russell Brown replies:

Reading RIU in the bath? With one hand? Hell, I can't with two. Anyway, nice idea.

For the Record

I wish to correct two impressions left in reader's minds after the April issue of RIU.

Firstly, the impression that the Cricketers has been renamed the Steinie Bar is not true. The upstairs bar has been redecorated and named the Steinie Bar. Secondly, you gave the impression that Mr Josephs is the booking agent for the Cricketers. This is untrue. The Cricketers has only one booking agent - myself.
David Hyams Wellington

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