

Letters

WE'RE GONNA GET YA AFTER SCHOOL

I've had my suspicions for quite some time now, but the review of TISM at the *Big Day Out 96*, by John Russell Rooster (King Cock), basically confirms beyond a shadow of a doubt he is obviously a closet homeboy from way back. In fact, I'm surprised TISM never dedicated the song 'All Homeboys are Dickheads' to John Boy, when I saw them live at the BDO.

I have read many a biased, misdirected review in previous *RIUs*, by Mr Homie, with unabashed bewilderment at how such an archaic, arrogant hack as himself has managed to retain any position of journalistic credibility with such pinheaded opinions as his. This observation has been repeated in the letters column by numerous disgruntled readers on a regular basis, in response to his seemingly endless supply of literary diarrhoea (apparently his native tongue). If Paul Holmes (yet another Holmeboy) were the resident programmer for NZ On Air, he'd look like John Russell.

For me, TISM were the highlight of a mostly uneventful day, hallmarked by frequent lacklustre performances. Not only could they pump out an infectiously catchy fistful of songs, but also took it upon themselves to wow us with the most gob smacking visual feast of the day. This, as JR grudgingly acknowledged, caused the audience to subsequently go nuts — a rather apt response to a crew who have strived to put the 'show' back in showmanship. Not unlike Johnny, who has effectively managed to put the 'boy' back in Homeboy, having scrutinised his critical ineptness.

Scott, Tauranga.

Editor Replies: You must have spent the day in the dunny if TISM were the highlight.

THIS IS SYDNEY MAIL

Shock, horror! A bad TISM review from across the Tasman. But what can us TISMites expect from a band who pisses on the music industry and provides a great time while they're at it!

Yes, a great time, happiness... fun! Stuff the boring orthodox love songs, and songs about pain and politics; 'This Is Serious Mum' provide relief from such shite through disco schlock such as 'Defecate on My Face', 'Existentialism', 'I'm Interested in Apathy', etc. Actually, while I'm at it, let me give you some more unwelcomed insight into by balaclavaed babies:

1) They've been at it since 1986. 2) They've got four CDs, two EPs, a box set, a book, four videos and two of Australia's highest selling comics under their belts. 3) They have a sack full of industry awards (for some unknown reason!). Lastly (it undoubtedly will be surprising to you), TISM broke the record regarding crowd attendance for Melbourne venue the Palace. The record was previously held by Nirvana!

So, to the point, if you need relief from your Green Days, Nick Caves and Pearl Jams, get your hands on some classic TISM. Hey, John Russell, you may be surprised.

Yvette, Sydney.

PS: Ed, could you possibly give an explanation as to why there were six members of TISM at the Auckland BDO, not seven? Thanx, great mag!

Editor Replies: Six or seven members, why do they only have one song?

HIPPIES RULE

I went to the Pakiri Surf and Rock Festival and I was so stoked to see your huge article on it. But as for the 'hippy vibe' being one of the least attractive aspects — fuck off. There wasn't even a 'hippy vibe', and so what if there was — hippies rule. The vibe down there was awesome, and there were heaps of different kinds of people. Don't diss hippies, man.

You Pissed Me Off John Russell, Northland.

I'LL HAVE SOME OF WHAT HE'S ON

A few aftershocks/afterthoughts about the Björk concert:

It was an amazing supersonic experience. Lotsa beautiful people (yes, you are!) there; hip, cool, fresh-faced, funky kids. Oh, well — stick a blowtorch up my butt and call me Pete Montgomery.

During 'Army of Me', 500 volts of electricity passed straight through me, and it wasn't 'Army of Me' I was hearing, but Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'! I imagine Björk and Beethoven would have got along really well together. Ludwig Van B used to smash up other people's furniture and Björk is prone to attacking pesky reporters, while both wrote/write really good pop songs.

I think Stanley Kubrick should remake 2001: A Space Odyssey, with Björk in the space pad, sailing through the stargate singing her version of 'Itsy-Bitsy, Teeny-Weeny, Yellow Polka Dot Bikini'. And some TV exec-producer, PR type person should offer her a guest star role in *Hercules, the Legendary Journeys*, so we can get her back to New Zealand asap. And also, Björk could out-spunk Kevin Sorbo — no contest. It's no mystery why kd lang wants to smear glycerated honey and yoghurt over Björk's silky beautiful body.

Anyone at the concert who has not fallen in love with Björk is most likely suffering from bi-polar occlusion and should have a brain scan immediately. Thank you!

John Merrick Jnr., 'The Elephant Boy', Wellington.

LOST

Can someone tell me whatever happened to Nine Livez? Thanks.

Ange, Masterton.

Editor: No.

FOUND

I found a watch at the Green Day concert in Auckland. If you think it's yours, please phone Geoff on (07)575-6892 after 6PM.

Geoff.

PATRIOT MOANS

With *RIU* being a New Zealand music magazine, I thought we would have more coverage of the New Zealand music scene. But no, you're still focused on overseas bands and interviews with rock 'n' roll dinosaurs like Iggy Pop.

While it must have been a bit of a coup getting an interview with Smashing Pumpkins, do we really have to have them on the cover? Most of the overseas acts in the March *RIU* frequent the pages of overseas music magazines. The buyers of *RIU* most likely are regular buyers of overseas music magazines, and probably have already read interviews with Black Grape, Smashing Pumpkins.

What I want is more interviews, profiles on New Zealand bands. You devote half a page to the Able Tasman! They've been away in hibernation for two years. You must have been able to find more to talk about than only enough for half a page. And why there has never been a decent photo of them published remains a mystery. Why couldn't you have put Martin Phillipps on the cover? He deserves one.

In the future, how about more New Zealand coverage, and leave the overseas stuff to other magazines. Enjoy what we've got here instead of looking over the neighbour's fence.

A Sweet and Tender Hooligan, Invercargill.

Editor replies: RiptUp has always covered both foreign and local music. Foreign music magazines have tiny circulations in New Zealand compared to RiptUp. In choosing Smashing Pumpkins for a cover we're not looking over the neighbour's fence, we're just reflecting local, indigenous, New Zealand purchasing patterns.

EYE DONT FINK SO

Dear RibldUp, Fanx from uz guys'z a' da Turangi correctional facility four habitual misspelling ov symple wordz.

Word up (1984).

Gaz Glytter, A Damn Ant, Suezl Qwatchro, Invercargill.

TIMARU LIVES!

Re letter in March *RIU* about Timaru not being mentioned in the *Gig Guide*.

Mr Birch is right. Recently a new venue called The Subterranean (formerly TEA club) has opened, and Dead Moon, Shaft and Nothing At All! have all played here recently, but not one mention in the *Gig Guide*. So, things are happening down here, but due to unorganised gig promoters not everyone gets to hear about it. Bookings for the Sub can be made on (03)688-8996, or (03)688-0727. Who knows, one day we may even get a mention.

Jeff Thompson, Timaru.

BEST SEAT IN THE CROWDED HOUSE

When I went to the Finn concert I thought: 'These seats aren't too bad, just halfway back in Founder's Theatre. After the opening acts — Bic Runga (what a brilliant voice), and some guy Dave (who everyone talked through his performance) — the Finn Brothers from my home town, *Te Awamutu*, came on.

After about two songs, Neil said: "It's your night, and do what you will." I went and stood in the middle, below the stage floor, and danced. Then they said we could sit on stage for the last hour, 30 minutes of their performance. So, there I was, paying \$30 for the best seat in the house, two metres in front of the singing Finn Brothers.

After the performance, when everyone had gone home, I talked to Petra from Ice TV (she's awesome), then went back stage and met Tim and Neil and got autographs and stuff. Anyway, to everyone who went to any of the Finn concerts, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Neil and Tim Finn Fan, Te Awamutu.

PS: RiptUp is the best music mag out!

GIMMEE GIMMEE

I reckon you guys put out a choice mag. I've just got one suggestion: more contests. Like, I remember you guys had a competition for Faith No More tickets, but you didn't have anything for the Pumpkins [concert]. Come on, man, you need at least one competition every month! How about you give away a certain number of albums every issue? — but not just New Zealand bands (although Pumpkinhead rock). That would be really choice. Otherwise, you guys are onto it.

Anonymous, Whangarei

HEY, MOANER

Hey, man, what ever happened to the pop charts? Reading the March 17 New Zealand Top 10 singles chart, I came across groups called LV, 3T, CDB, OMC, ABC, 123 whatever. Who is buying this commercial lollipop crap?

Number 1 was 'Mysterious Girl' by Peter Andre, which must be the biggest shocker ever recorded. You say I just don't like black music. I say, this isn't black music. It's a white man song from a white man record company.

I think New Zealand (as a mass) has the worst musical group taste in the world. Our singles chart only proves so. What's this R&B shite even doing in our record stores? I say burn it all before you become brain-dead!

The album charts are just as bad, and why are *Siamese Dream* and *Definitely Maybe* still Top 20? Those albums are like centuries old! Buy something new, you eediot! Like something reviewed by Bronwyn or Kevin in this magazine. Break off from the mainstream before its too late. That's my message.

Someone From Wellington.

PS: 'Billy Joel is an asshole,' is the best lyric from any song I've heard in a long time. Thanks, Garageland.

Editor replies: Record shops are full of R&B singles because people buy them. I'm no Peter Andre fan, but he records for

Mushroom Records, who own Flying Nun, who release Garageland records. Have you ever considered that maybe if record labels weren't releasing pop R&B they would earn less money, and therefore be less able to record more esoteric stuff?

BRIDGET'S MOTHER REPLIES

Having spent two dollars on your mag, I thought I had better reply to one of the letters you printed in the March edition.

It concerns one Bridget Sherlihy (my, what an unusual name!) of Wanganui, and her outward opinions on the Rage Against the Machine concert — or rather, the lack of it. Yeah, sure, it was a real bummer the dudes had a change of plan, and it was a last minute thing. But we all know how last minute and finicky these alternative stars can be. After all, surely if you are truly 'alternative' in your lifestyle (or just trying to be), you would just shrug your shoulders and get on with life.

Oh, another point to bring up is the way Bridget refers to the *Big Day Out*. I know from a reliable source that Bridget has never attended this so-called 'trendy fashion fest'. So, how can she possibly know what she is talking about? But, then again, it is easy to criticise from afar (says me!).

And one last thing, since I'm on a roll: I'm not very impressed with her eloquent

use of the F word. Is it really necessary? I've heard (I have my ear to the ground), she is studying English at university! Surely she could have thought of a better way to put this.

Maggie L. Wanganui.

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