

dance massive

shoot the dj

I may be jumping the gun by going out and saying this, but has anyone else noticed the slow signs (parties called *E-Space*, E murals at *Vision On*, a certain Welli DJ who vomited under the decks while rushing his tits off at *Champion Sounds*) that say E culture is slowly emerging in New Zealand? From what I can tell, E is fairly readily available in Auckland and Welli, albeit at a price (typically \$80-\$100!), which certainly puts it out of reach for a lot of the more financially challenged punters out there. Anyways, I reckon the number of people off their tits on a feel-good stimulant has a direct effect on how rocking the party gets, which is, of course, a big part of why everything blew up so large in the UK. But enough of my two bit analysis, *Shoot the DJ* says indulge by all means, but moderation is a good thing, and don't forget to support your local dance scene.

AUCKLAND

February 24 saw the *Vision On* crew take over Squid for a night and they rocked it. The trance room never really took off, but upstairs in the bar, shit was pumping all night, all the house DJs surpassed themselves, especially **Gary Garage**, **Brother Zed** and **Clarkee** — nice work, lads. Next edition will be at Squid, April 13, with **Clarkee**, **DJ8**, **Chris W.** and **G-Spot**. The first floor will be a dubby affair, with **Dubhead** and **MC Tuffy** with **Slowdeck** and **Guy** ... also on the twenty-fourth was **Hardwired**, strictly a hardcore party. Ya have to admire their attitude, the flyer read: 'Hardwired will be ridiculously hard, there will be no happy rave, no fucking whistles, absolutely nothing to do with the new age and no apologies.' Much respect to **Aaron**, **Mechanism** etc. for keeping it real in the hardcore scene ... also on April 13, **Dark Forces** are afoot in the Box, with **Aaron**, **Sam Hill**, and residents **Greg** and **Dean** ... as we farewell **Nathan Haines** from the Icebox and indeed the country (go hard, mate!), **DJ8** joins **Chelsea** in the Icebox, Friday and Saturday nights ... there's a new electronic music 'zine out. Called *Move*, it's strictly for the technohead. You can pick it up free from cooler record shops around town ... March 6 saw the **Quaff** posse present a show on **bFM** documenting a little bit of house music's rich and varied history ... **BPM Records** now sponsor Wednesday nights at **Celebre** (look for some tasty drinks promotions and album releases), which means the finest in classic and classy house cuts (and a smattering of ex-tra smooth drum 'n' bass) with **DJ8**, **Sam Hill**, **Albion** and **Greg Churchill** ... The Box will host Chicago's finest trakhead, the amazing **DJ Sneak**, now confirmed for May 18, and lined up for July, house legend **Little Louie Vega** ... the love 'em or hate 'em *Entrain* posse rolled though Auckland and did a party on March 2. There was a rumour that **Björk** would play a set, however, this was either a publicity stunt or just wishful thinking. Apparently, though, because of the heavy rain, someone did get electrocuted. The posse also put on a free party at the Staircase, which was again a hippy, goa trance sort of affair ... as for the **Björk** gig, I dunno, I was impressed, but I expected some rocking dance beats, the crowd were hungry for it, but instead we got way to much slow ballad-type behaviour for my liking — okay, if you're sitting down, but there was a crowd ready for some dance floor action — incredible voice though ... *E-Space* on March 8 was cool, even if the scheduled licensed bar was closed down that afternoon due to some legal grey areas after a jealous promoter (no names, but I've heard some rumours and they're ugly) doxed them in. Talk about bad form though, buddy. This kind of negativity is the last thing we need ... D'Angelo promotions presents another monster holiday weekend, Easter Sunday (April 7) sees *Wet 'n Wild* at the Waterfront Bar, with those super foam machines and lots of babes in bikinis and hunks in trunks. Squid hosts *The Resurrection*, another *Cheap Sex*, with all the usual deviant stage acts (like the truly frightening Madame Kitty), cheap and slutty DJs (**Sample Gee**, **Sam Hill** and **DJ8**), and the amazing body piercer, **Dr Shylo**. Tix are strictly limited to 300, so be quick. Down at The Box/Celebre it's the very last ever *Retro-a-Go-Go*, with an all star line up of previous retro spinners (ya cheese-zoids!). A mystery superstar guest will arrive by limo at about 11PM to perform a few numbers, and Love Sector 6 play live in Celebre. Again, tix are strictly limited to 400, and you know this will sell out. Hey, there's even a breakdancing competition, so you know I'll be there ... the always stylin' **Crow Bar** is going back to its underground roots. They have implemented a more progressive musical

approach, moving away from anything commercial towards deep house, trip-hop, and the odd excursion into drum 'n' bass with the (should be cool) separate **Lounge Bar** set to open above the Crow in about six weeks. It will be a plush, intimate, chill-out bar to complement the Crow's late night, late party activities ... there's also lots happening at Hotel De Brett. **The Spin Bar** opens April 4, with **Andy Vann** and guest MC's **Bobbylon** and **Johnny D**, April 12 is the opening of the **Redzone Bar**, with **G-Spot** and **DJ8**, and from April 18 every Thursday in the Redzone bar genuine ex-pat UK DJs playing UK house ... *The Brain* is back in action hosting the **Nightraver** and **DJ Trevor** of *DyeWitness* (Holland). Check 'em at The Box, April 11, and at *The Brain* itself, where they will play a two hour DJ/MC set, The Powerstation, April 12, pre-sales from **BPM**, Paris Texas, Route 66 ... *Armageddon Dance* (music for the acid generation) at The Foundry was a good rave. **Pots**, **48 Sonic**, **DJ8**, **Slimmatt**, **Pauly** and **Gideon** played to an enthusiastic crowd and lots of kids doing amyl ... look out for *The X Files* on Wednesday April 24, at The Box/Celebre, with trip-hop/drum 'n' bass in Celebre, with **DLT**, **Stinky Jim** and **DJ8**, and trance/acid/techno in The Box, with **Sam Hill**, **Albion** and **Sample Gee** (more DJs to be confirmed) ... *Jungle Sound Clash* in the Voodoo lounge was a ripper. For the first time at a drum 'n' bass party some ragga jungle DJs were on the bill, but the mix worked well. The usual jungle massive showed up for some jump up dancefloor action. More drum 'n' bass-wise antics in the Voodoo Lounge are set for May 4, and possibly sometime in April a drum 'n' bass evening with a certain UK female DJ who warms up for Metalheadz stars — **Hidden Agenda**. Now that would be cool.

NAPIER

Wet Wired, the latest **Goodbuzz** production happens April 6 in a location that will be fully decked out in *Blade Runner*-style. Your cyber-jockeys for the evening include **Anatomic**, **Crokka**, **Fritz**, **Little Bastard**, **Aspen**, **Torty**, **Seismic Anomaly** and **Corruption**. Look for flyers around town, and check out the **Bass Chamber** every Wednesday in the back bar of O'Flaherty's.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Without a suitable or regular dance venue the Palmy scene consists of one-off parties. The upside to this is that one-off events tend to go off. This was most definitely the case on February 3 when the **Madhouse Crew** rocked an old church with a rave called *Sabotage*. **DJs Crokka**, **Anatomic** and **Slimmatt** kept the 400 strong crowd moving until the early hours ... March 16 saw **Mechanism** play to a smallish crowd as part of the **Morningstar** tour ... the **Madhouse Crew** get busy once again on March 30 with *The Boiler Room* featuring **Obi Wan** (Christchurch), **Clinton** and **Andee** (Welli) and a live set from **LRS**. **Dog TV** will provide live visual mixing on twin video screens.

WELLINGTON

Congratulations to **Omni**, **Bassment 45** and the **Cybernetic Industries** crew who pulled off the wicked *Sonic Mass* party on March 9. An outdoor dancefloor, indoor chill floor, lots of jungalism and a certain **DJ Sweet** who had the crowd eating out of his hand with an absolutely spectacular trance set. Can't wait for the next one ... rumour has it the **Bassment 45** space will be turned into a club, and a new record shop (*Pulse*) may open across the road in that old deserted building that's been done up. Watch this space ... the **Tatou** basement opens (about a year behind schedule!) on April 5 with **Home**, **Clinton Smiley's** regular Friday night of bangin' house and trance with regular guests. **Eden Productions** will be running the **Cybertron Lounge** in **Tatou's** basement every Thursday. Bringing a more 'intelligent' (ya snobs!) music policy and promising some big name guests, good shit though, at last Welli gets a decent underground club ... **Tasty**, the popular gay-friendly night, returns to **Tatou** for April 6 with **Burgess**, **Chelsea** and **Simon Oakly** from the AK, and **Tatou** residents **Clinton**, **Stevie B** and **Andee** ... **Shore Ting Productions**, headed by the mad talented **DJ Sweet**, take over **ESC** on April 27 with **Sweet**, **Low Key**, **Trent**, **Andrew B**, **Mu** and **Ruffstep**. It will be wicked ... oh, and **Vortex**, Saturdays at the **Lounge Bar**, **Petone**. Hmmm, uh, guys, are you sure, like, **Petone** is the way to go? ... April 4 is the first autumn full moon, and Wellington will be celebrating at **ESC** with the **Roots Foundation Sound System**, who present *Vibration Version* with **Mu**, **Lemon**, **Goosebump**,

Maverick and **Dr Midge**. Expect everything from **Studio One** bass lines to **Moving Shadow** breaks, 'cause it's like the man **Lemon** says: "We are under no pressure to oil the cartwheel of mediocrity."

NELSON

Uprising, 'the second coming of the big beat', the biggest party in the Nelson area since *Entrain*, happens on Easter Sunday, April 7. It's an all ages affair with **Obi Wan** (the **SlipMatt** alter-ego), **Pylon**, **Lariken**, **Gill**, **Mel** (a trip-hop DJ from Dunedin), **Tin Tin** and **Flux** navigating the decks in the main dance room and chill space. Look for posters for more details.

CHRISTCHURCH

The infamous **Obi Wan** is moving to the urban tekno spacescape that is Japan! Woah, bro! That's a big move, but naturally enough **Matt** isn't gonna just disappear without instigating a few more nights of hardcore celebration. Indeed, he's organising a 'back to the underground' party called *Digital Ritual* with **Mechanism**, **Obi Wan**, **Shannon**, **Stealth** and **Silencer**, which happens Good Friday, April 5. On April 19 **Matt** will be in Dunedin to play with **DJ Kinesis** at new bar **Swim**, on a subversive mission to take hard trance and break beat to the good folk of Dunedin, home of the rugby ball, the guitar, the student and the keg ... and there will be a party on May 3, with **Winge** (a live techno duo from Auckland), and possibly **DJ Spellbound** from Sydney. Look for flyers for more details.

In other news... you still have until the end of this month to enter the *Shoot the DJ Mix Tape Challenge* (look out for the very orange flyers at record shops in all the main centres). Entries have been slow-ish so far, but I know I'm going to be flooded with tapes in the last week. You'd also be (un)surprised how many DJs request that I, er, get spliffed up before listening to their tape. All I can say is, what you enclose with your tape is your own business ... **Festival Records** are starting a DJ mailing list. Only problem is, most product will be on CD, but if that sounds like you, then apply in writing to **DJ Promotions**, **Festival Records**, PO Box 1170, Auckland 1. **Polygram** are also updating their DJ lists, again, apply in writing to **DJ Promotions**, **Polygram Records**, PO Box 617, Auckland ... **Lenny D** is set to visit these shores once again, and will play Auckland (May 31, unconfirmed) and Wellington (June 1, confirmed). More details closer to the time ... alright, that's it, hope you made it to one of the **Alex Paterson** nights, and don't forget to get those tapes to me. If you've got something you want in the column, call me at the magazine, okay. Take care now... **ANDY (DJ8)**

A DRUM 'N' BASS IN OUTER SPACE



Okay, here's the scenario: I'm on the dance-floor at **Bob**, getting low down and funky to the serious sounds of one of the drum 'n' bass-wise parties. I don't know who is deejaying and don't really care, 'cause the sub bass has me hypnotised and swooning in rhythmic pleasure, while the chopped up breaks make my arms lace the air in machine gun rhythms. Yeah, baby, this is the sound of the underground and it's time to get the fuck down.

Through the haze of dry ice and strobe light I spot three guys hunched over a rack of keyboards, samplers, and associated digital hardware. They are cautiously observing the crowd while they furiously work their machines, conjuring up the sound of the feared mutant alien Insectatrons engaged in cyber warfare against the noble guardians of the **Delta Quadrant**. It is indeed a live performance by possibly **New Zealand's** only live junglists — step up, the enigmatic **Baiter Cell**.

Fast forward to the place I know as reality, and it finds me back in my favourite cafe (it's the bitchy staff I guess), sitting with a certain **DJ/promoter/junglist** who goes by the name of **D-Rave**.

Yo' D, just who are **Baiter Cell**?

"**Baiter Cell** are myself, **Chris** and **Patrick**."

You're a trance DJ and, without putting too much emphasis on it, I understand **Chris** and **Patrick** are in a death metal band. What the hell are you three doing writing drum 'n' bass?

"Well, I used to be a break beat DJ, but at the time the music was very raw, and I somehow metamorphosed into a trance DJ. We thought we could take the break beats of hardcore, bring in more melodies and atmospherics, and hopefully arrive at a fuller sound."

What do you think of the current sounds of drum 'n' bass?

"Awesome. The melody is back, there's a lot more going on in each track. Jungle seems to have split up into different styles; some rely on the break beat while others concentrate on the melody. I must say, though, the jungle I prefer is the darker stuff."

In the UK jungle has gone mega. What do you think of the state of **New Zealand's** drum 'n' bass scene?

"Well, not to be negative, but there's too many people dissing different styles of jungle. There are a lot of people who moan about people not listening to jungle and being close minded, but who, at the same time, are close minded themselves to other forms of jungle, which is just hypocritical. We're at such an early stage of development of the jungle scene that it's just pointless to be dissing people."

Back to **Baiter Cell**, you are primarily a live act — where do you play?

"We've done over 15 live gigs at lots of underground parties that don't get promoted, we played at a lot of the **Great North Road** parties, the drum 'n' bass-wise events, some of the *Stomping* parties, and the first gig we ever did was as support for **Reel 2 Reel** early last year, although we did more of a ravey techno set that night."

What's the future for **Baiter Cell**?

"Well, we would like to release something on vinyl. We're fairly casual about it, we don't take ourselves too seriously, but it would be good to see the **Auckland** jungle scene get bigger and stronger so there are more parties, because we all love the music."

You said it **D**, we surely do. Stay tuned for more jungleicious parties coming your way — chances are **Baiter Cell** will be on the bill. They intend to tour the **South Island** late May, early June, and seriously, they are not to be missed.

ANDY PICKERING

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