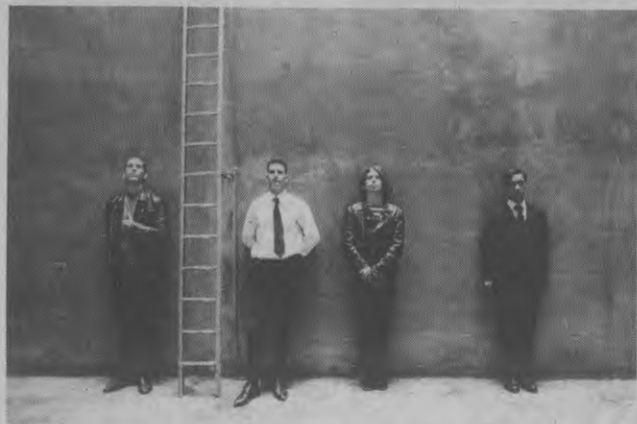


A CAUSE CELEBRE

Irregular Siren goers will be surprised by changes to High Street's hippest club. It has split into two separate entities which are mutually exclusive up to a point. The old second room has become a dance club called the Box where pumping sounds have been selected to please ardent hard dance fans (Simon Grigg says they recently threw out a hundred and fifty crowd pleasing records to make way for the newest sounds). Once in there you can skir the corner and go through to the other

club, Celebre, providing you're in a lounge lizard state of mind. That patch of dancefloor where some of Auckland's most dexterous bodies used to contort themselves is now occupied by a jazz band or similarly gentle ensemble. The ambience is more conversational than carnal, the emphasis is on quality drinking (as indicated by the presence of Kevin the Hat behind the bar) and low-key conviviality. Celebre is open from 8pm till 3am and admission is at the door person's discretion.



Francis Sect play Gluepot June 2 with Chris Knox and Second Child.



ROLLINS

Henry Rollins is in town. He used to be in legendary hard core band Black Flag. Now he does solo tours as a spoken-word performer and with the Rollins Band who are fast becoming a legend in their own right. Rollins hates doing interviews. Which is OK because I don't much like doing them myself. So let's stick to one sentence answers.

What's some motivation, Henry?

The usual stuff. Weakness, fear, revenge.

What about violence. Does it have a place in society?

Of course. Man is a warring animal.

Does the term 'purgatory' apply?

Absolutely. I'm not an artist. I don't create, it's all there. I just get it out.

Why a spoken word approach?

It was a form of direct communication and it's difficult to do

so it was a challenge.

What do you think of the decadence in today's music?

It's totally for assholes. Why force these decadent values on young people? I don't find this aspiration to alcohol and unconsciousness cool. I find it depressing.

Rollins is a very serious man. He's also very intelligent and quite witty. I

saw him later and he's very enthused by music and a nice guy. I told him stories about Screamin' Jay Hawkins and he told me stories about everyone from John Lee Hooker and Nick Cave. His spoken word show was humorous but intense. He's back soon with his band. Definitely worth checking out.

KIRK GEE

UNTRIVIAL PURSUITS

The Pursuit of Happiness



The Pursuit of Happiness with producer Todd Rundgren.

A few months ago the Pursuit of Happiness got playlisted on BFM with 'I'm An Adult Now', a sardonic ode to late adulthood sung with a deadpan Jonathan Richmond-esque swagger. ("I can't take any more illicit drugs... I'd sure look like a fool dead in a ditch somewhere with a mind full of chemicals like some sort of cheese eating high school boy").

What kind of guy writes a song like that? The fact that TPOH hail from Canada, land of prairies and lumberjacks, added to the intrigue. While not exactly a monster hit, this group's debut album *Love Junk* has gathered a few discerning admirers down here so in your interests, I phoned Canada one day to speak to singer / guitarist / songwriter Moe Berg.

In the press photo he looks tall and gangly, with long thin hair, metal rimmed spectacles and a black leather jacket. Was Moe a nerdy adolescent?

"Oh yeah," he replies over the line from Toronto, "It wasn't so much I was a nerd but in my high school there were the nerds and the very hip people. I didn't belong to either of those groups — I was too hip to be nerdy and too nerdy to be hip. Maybe that explains why I became a songwriter because I had to sort of stand on the outside all the time and I tended to watch."

Have you grown up now?

"I guess so but I'm never going to ever think of myself as completely grown up. That's one thing about rock n' roll, it gives you the illusion of youth even though you're not. I've always thought of myself as a kid. I sort of wish I'd lived my life differently 'cos I wish I'd done more when I was young and maybe I'd be more successful now."

He's not doing too badly for a late starter. The boy who grew up listening to the Raspberries,

Badfinger and Todd Rundgren asked for and got his hero to produce their first album. Rundgren has also produced their second LP, *One Sided Story*, due for release in North American about now.

The Pursuit of Happiness is Moe's baby but there are five group members including two women. How do they get on in a band whose songs are about such pointedly male preoccupations as 'Looking for Girls'?

"They've always been part of the sound I've heard in my head. I totally preconceptualised the band before it even started and what I wanted to hear was a rock band with a lot of vocals to give the band a pop sensibility and I thought the best way to get good vocals is to get women in the band."

Moe says it's no longer necessary for Canadian bands to haul themselves over the border to make it because America is starting to look to its neighbour as an untapped source of pop talent. There's all kinds of musical action going down in Toronto, giving rise to the likes of the Cowboy Junkies and Alannah Myles.

And has Moe, the perennially twisted adolescent singing about the hapless pursuit of love, found happiness yet?

"No, I don't think you ever do and that's not the point. The point is the pursuit of happiness and doing things that move you in that direction. I think that's the most important thing."

DONNA YUZWALK

THE CHURCH



GOLD



AFTERNOON



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