

singles

ABC Love Conquers All (Parlophone) CD Single

Martin Fry re-reads the lexicon of love in this sweet morsel of pop soul, a light sway through his ruminations on the power that is love. Being the romantic that I am, I fall head over heels for this sort of soft disco slush every time. A return to form for ABC. Excellent.

BOMB THE BASS Winter In July (Rhythm King) 12"

Unlike that other hip hop wunderkind, Mantronix, Tim Simenon hasn't abandoned his roots, just expanded on them. The new *Unknown Territory* album is brimming with new ideas, here's one of them. A slow subsonic beat with soul vocals from Loretta Haywood over the top, with a smart sample from Kate Bush at the start. A bit difficult to assimilate everything at first, but work with it. Of interest to technology fans, is that this is the first single using the new 3D sound system designed by Roland — whatever that means.

SCRITTI POLITTI & SWEETIE IRIE Take Me In Your Arms and Love Me (Virgin) 12"

Scritti really works well in tandem with the hot shot reggae guests they've been working with. First with the dancehall duke, Shabba Ranks, now with the ragga love man, Sweetie Irie. Another inspired cover in a groove oozing cool reggae beats sung in that brittle voice, in contrast to the gruff desires of Mr Sweetie Irie.

LIMBO MANIACS Shake It (CBS) 12"

Inspirational art from a bunch of white boys rapping about their sexual desires to a nasty go-go beat that snakes around in a demented manner. Sort of thing you want to hear after a few wine coolers for breakfast.

DE LA SOUL A Roller Skating Jam Named Saturdays (Liberation) 12"

Not as super catchy as 'Ring Ring Ring' but it has all the De La Soul elements. Smart talk and smart beats. A

modern version in spirit of Chic's 'Good Times' even using that rollerskate sample. Good also is the 'Grease' sample in the disco fever mix, just sort of leaps out at you. Remix from Youth. Like to say it's going to be a big hit but maybe a little too unusual. Flip it over for a house rework from Dave 'Boom Boom' Morales.

PM DAWN Set Adrift On Memory Bliss (Gee Street) 12"

Well, it's not out yet, but watch out, it's gonna be an early summer hit. A gem of a thing, using the roach clip beat with Spandau Ballet's 'True' in all its schmaltzy glory. Still not sure what they're saying, but who cares when it sounds this good.

HOUSE PARTY Dangerous Love (Southside) 12"

The label seems to be finding its sound, like the wonderful Moana 'AEIOU' single, this has a light funky back beat with the accent on the vocals.

Nice production from Stuart Pearce with the Alyson Williams Sleepwalk rhythm taking most of the weight. Houseparty have a good song working here, a pop love lament that has its attractions, I'm sure you're going to agree.

FRANKIE KNUCKLES The Whistle Song (Virgin) 12"

Da godfather of House in a light mood, uplifting beat, jazzy flute and of course whistling. Sort of enters your head and hangs around, like you're in the supermarket buying those really expensive chips in the tube things and you start whistling this little house ditty. It's a catchy beast. Now if I were a smart radio programmer for one of those M.O.R. / A.O.R. stations I'd play the hell out of this. Then again being smart and being in radio seem to be two different things.

BASSOMATIC Funky Love Vibrations (Guerilla) 12"

William Orbit in a pop funk style, and very good it is too. Heavy on the retro groove effect, sounding like Stargard's 'Which Way Is Up', then the catchy soul vocals.

Pleasant and Groovy
KERRY BUCHANAN

CDs

U2 "Green" CD

U2 have insisted on dispensing with the traditional USA CD packaging device, the cardboard LP height "longbox". Their new album *Achtung* will be available in the "environmentally friendly" AGI DigiTrak version or a shrink wrapped jewel box, as CDs are usually displayed in NZ.

Barbara Streisand

A four CD box set **Barbara Streisand Collection** is released with 80 tracks including alternate takes, demos and live material. The oldest track is 'You'll Never Know' from 1955 when Streisand was 13.

Bangladesh Concert

The 1971 **George Harrison** appeared on CD for the first time. Artists appearing include Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston and Leon Russell.

Split Enz on CD

The **Split Enz** albums *Corroboree*, *Time & Tide*, *See Ya Round* and *Frenzy* have been issued for the first time on CD, in Mushroom's mid-price series.

Bowie "Berlin" Era

The **David Bowie** "Berlin" period albums *Low*, *Heroes* and *Lodger* have been reissued digitally remastered with extra tracks etc.

Phil Spector set

The ABKCO catalogue of former Stones manager Allen Klein, may change its global distribution. When contracts are signed, CD sets will be issued including a four CD **Phil Spector** set and a three CD *Cameo-Parkway Story*. Klein will also issue the **Rolling Stones** movie *Gimme Shelter* on video.

Heartland America

The Elektra Nonesuch Explorer Series has travelled into the heartland of America for its latest indigenous sounds. New releases include zydeco master **Boozoo Chavis**, pianist for Chuck Berry **Johnnie Johnson** (assisted by Keith Richards, Eric Clapton), Sun Records architect **Charlie Feathers**, saxophone preacher **Brother Vernard Johnson** and Texas legend **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**.

Metal Blade

The **Metal Blade** label will become available via Warner Music. New releases due soon are **Earl Slick Band** *In Your Face*, **Haunted Garage** *Possession Park*, **Anacrusis** *Manic Impression*, **Y&T** *Yesterday & Today Live*, **Slaughterhouse** *Face Reality*, **Junk Monkey** *Five Star Flying*, **Alex Masi** *Vertical Invader* and **Lizzy Borden** *Master of Disguise*.

Expect a **Jefferson Airplane** boxed set this year.

Buzzcocks

The **Buzzcocks** debut EP *Spiral Scratch* is being issued on CD and 12" vinyl. These recordings feature the original lead singer **Howard Devoto**.

gear

STEINBERG MIDI MUSIC SOFTWARE

The Cubase 2.01 Midi Recording / Scorewriting software can be used on the Atari Mega STE and offers complete tape machine control from the computer for the new Fostex 16 and 24 track tape recorders. The package is now available in New Zealand from Custom Music Ltd.

MIDEX PLUS

Also available from Custom Music is the Midex Plus Audio/Video hardware which combines three units into one compact device. The Midi expander offers 4 independent Midi outs and 2 independent Midi ins, and includes SMPTE/EBU timecode synchronization.

LIGHTING HIRE

Oceania Audio have formed Oceania Lighting to compliment their sound and production services. They offer full hire facilities ranging from single lamp to total show and crew hire, and have a staff with no shortage of lighting experience on hand.

ROLAND HARD DISK RECORDER

Digital 'tapeless' recording becomes even easier with Roland's affordable new multitrack hard disk recording system, the DM-80. It's a complete music production system that offers simultaneous 4 track recording with excellent sound quality at every stage. The DM-80 is ideal for a broad range of digital recording applications, from a personal system for pros to a full-scale professional studio set up, with a full lineup of systems available to support these applications.

letters

WRITE TO: RIU LETTERS, PO BOX 5689, WELLESLEY STREET, AUCKLAND; OR FAX: (AK) 761-558.

RIU REVIEWERS

There are a certain few *RIU* reviewers who don't seem to be giving struggling NZ artists a fair go. George Kay, Matthew Hyland and Shiree Love's regular criticisms leave impressions of putting their journalistic egos before what they are reviewing. I acknowledge their writing skills but too often the music takes second place to the musical politics and it's relative social-type issues (sometimes reviews have not even mentioned the music let alone describe it).

This is frustrating for those living outside the main cities as we do not often get to hear this material. A *RIU* review is often all we have to go on. For example, S. Love's *State of Mind* review — as there was no mention of where to get a copy, those interested miss out.

Matthew Hyland has stated "tightness and professionalism don't excuse blandness..." These comments reflect a lack of understanding of basic principles in musicianship, thus insulting any proficient performer's musical standards. Obviously not a competent musician himself, why is he employed by a competent music paper?

Unsigned alternative bands cannot survive this as they do not have the backing. A reasonably good or bad *RIU* review can assist in the making or breaking of a new act.

A lot of favouritism is given to the Auckland/Dunedin Flying Nun crowd (this is not the fault of these people as most often they have worked hard to get where they are). These biases tend to divide the alternative scene rather than build it and create factions and frictions within it.

A change in attitude by some of the *RIU* reviewers could provide the much needed break for many bands. INC MUSIC MOUNT MAUNGANUI

JOURNALISTIC EGOTISM

I am writing to inform you of how refreshing it was to read the review by dear old Uncle Arthur (Neville Purviss' review *Crowded House* July '91). Reviews like this and the odd John Dix make a much needed change from the

often blatantly rude reviewing from Matthew Hyland and George Kay.

The older *RIU* readers have grown very tired of the journalistic egotisms of "self conscious", "juxtaposition", "pretentious", "retrospective" etc in amongst the sometimes 40-50 word sentences.

Death to Russell Brown clones. Bring on Dr Rock (Barry Jenkins). Yours faithfully, Rumpole of the Bailey

HENDRIX

Reading the letters to *RIU* some people just bitch about other people's music or musical tastes. Music should be enjoyed, listen to whatever you want and don't take reviewers' opinions so seriously. Many of my friends can't stand what I listen to so I don't push it on them.

I enjoyed Kirk Gee's 'Hendrix Journey'. Some of his live songs are more emotionally lyrical and melodic than his studio recordings.

Some people claim that Hendrix was useless compared to guitarists like Kirk Hammet and Steve Vai etc. The styles of today's technically excellent guitarists are so different to Hendrix's free form and innovative guitar playing no comparison can be made. Hendrix has inspired many of today's guitarists like Steve Stevens, Steve Vai, Yngwie Malmsteen, Paul Gilbert and many others. SRJ.W

GUNS'N'ROSES

I agree that *The Simpsons* are pretty funny and *Married With Children* has its moments, but my absolute FAVOURITE comedy show is called GUNS'N'ROSES!!! Oh God, it's sooo hilarious!

You know, my all time fave episode was the one where Axel, Izzy, Slash, Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-tail threw the drummer out and accused him of using DRUGS!! My God, I just laughed until my spleen ruptured!

Shit, they're far funnier than *The Young Ones* ever were! (I guess we all REALLY knew it was because the poor lad was the only one in the band with a SENSIBLE NAME).

The Drugs, the Riots, the Big girly interview contract, the NEW album... HAH HAH HAH. Oh THANK YOU boys for giving us all such a big fucking LAUGH! Peace and Love, Shay

STRESS MUSIC PRESENT
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Sept 21	Warkworth	The Establishment
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Sept 24	Rotorua	Palace Tavern
Sept 26	Wellington	New Carpark
Sept 27	Palmerston North	University*
Sept 27	Palmerston North	Superliquor Man
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