Kurt Shanks (foreground) fronts the new band My Conviction who launched their four track cassingle, late June at De Bretts, on Polygram. Bassist Andrew Thorne has his own release out soon on Deep Grooves' indie rock label Lost Records.





B.B. King has recorded an album of duets *Blues Summit* with various blues players including Robert Cray and John Lee Hooker (both pictured) in San Francisco and a Memphis session with Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor, Etta James, Irma Thomas and Albert Collins.



**BRAINTREE** are pictured picnicing in the forest in preparation for the launch of their three track single 'Minds Alive' at the Pelican Friday June 16 with Locust abortion Technicians. They are (L-R) Twiggy, Doctor Zanoni, TC and the Tea Lady.



Cicada have released a cassette 'Spine' recorded at York St Studio.



Proud purveyors of a brand new four song cassette (their first release) Thorazine Shuffle (who are kinda like the Kinks with feedback) are celebrating its release on July 3 at Pelican with their friends Semi-Lemon Cola and Element (featuring MIKEY HAVOC FROM PUSH PUSH!) so be there or be square. For the record, Thorazine Shuffle have been playing in Auckland for the last seven months and have been on the Bob BFM Top Ten for the last six weeks with 'Nausea', from their tape *Stir*.



Death metal freaks are in for a treat — Austria's stinkingly good death practitioners Pungent Stench are coming to New Zealand in July for an unprecedented eight city tour Pungent Stench are big in their hometown of Vienna, where the attitude to brutal music with gore splattered lyrics seems to be live and let live. Europeans must be a lot more sophisticated than Australians, who confiscated copies of their 91 release Been Caught Buttering at customs. So it featured a cover picture of two corpses kissing, so what? Nowdaysthe Stench are exploring more melodic rock grooves in their latest release, Dirty Rhymes and Psychotronic Beats, but the cement mixer vocals are still in place. Drummer Alex Wank (yes, that's his real name, apparently it doesn't mean that in Viennese) told me that the band are looking forward to coming to New Zealand because they're fans of Peter Jackson (director of Braindead and Bad Taste). Heavy as hell with a sense of humour — what more could you want? DONNA YUZWALK

