

50^P PLUS A SAE

THE INDEPENDENT'S CASSETTE REVIEW MAGAZINE

21

'STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!'[®]

S.I.I.Y.E. Productions
proudly present....

CASSETTE - EATING

ZOMBIES

WHEN THE LIVING DEAD OF THE
BRITISH RECORD INDUSTRY
RISE TO WREAK HAVOC ON
THE CONSUMER!!

CERT X



All communications/tapes/articles etc (together with a sae if a reply is required) to:
 GEOFF WALL, 9 GLADSTONE ROAD, SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 8GU, HANTS
 Cover illustration: Paul Carter

Culture Shock



Su Lyn Band

A NEW DIY CASSETTE INFORMATION SERVICE

Since the demise of 'Garageband' in the NME, the reduction of 'Your cassette pet' in Sounds & the loss of interest in the independent cassette medium by the other major music weeklies, our future as cassetteers has been placed firmly in our own hands. This magazine performs a stalwart task of reviewing our latest offerings, but opportunities for advertising our wares elsewhere are both limited & costly when compared with the number of sales made. The use of independent distributors is self-defeating unless the tape becomes very popular, as their own mark-up price discourages sales. I would like to compile a price list including as many tape labels as possible (& how to obtain them), to be distributed free of charge through some ads in the music press. The cost of the project will be funded by all those labels wishing to be included. This service may also be used to distribute publicity literature far more easily & economically than by labels sending them to potential buyers on their mailing list. It is not intended to use this project as a profit making scheme in itself & so as much co-operation as possible will be welcomed. Any interested labels please contact me as soon as possible. A SAE will be appreciated. Contact Steve Lockley, "Pegasus Music", 85 Swadlincote Road, Woodville, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE11 8DB.

xenä zeröx



XENA ZEROX—"THE DEMO...HAPPINESS IS A SWIVEL CHAIR"

After finally managing to extract themselves from their RCA contract which they obtained by reaching the finals of the "Battle of the Bands" competition, Xena Zeröx are at last independent. This three track demo is truly magnificent. The band at one time seemed in difficulties—their single "Seconds/This is your life" RCA 54, was like a jewel thrown into mud, several sparkling facets washed down by sludge & slime; the tape shows them out in the sun with a vengeance. Appropriately that this should come out as rays temporarily replace grey for the first time in this miserable British year. The message from this uplifting, heartening glint is that it's summer in the mind if you want it. Barbed hooks spring out of every conceivable space, a touch of Eighties psychedelia gets the going weird when it needs to & the beat is always boisterous thanks to bassist Martin Allenston, drummer Doug Keating, the tight, taut, rifting guitars of Nigel Evans & Rudy Schlienger's exceptional voice. Put quite simply, it's a classic!

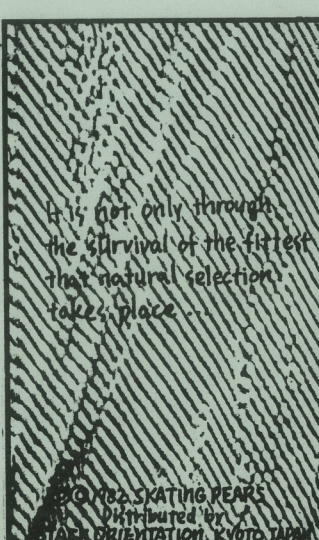
figure & ground



ののづぬずり
 NOIZUNZURI

B-LIVES.1

High Quality Bands
 Live at dec-Bee's
 T. Furukawa
 Equal
 Mono Sexion
 The Diddos
 Amayllis
 Psycho Theatre
 EP-4 (Unit 2)

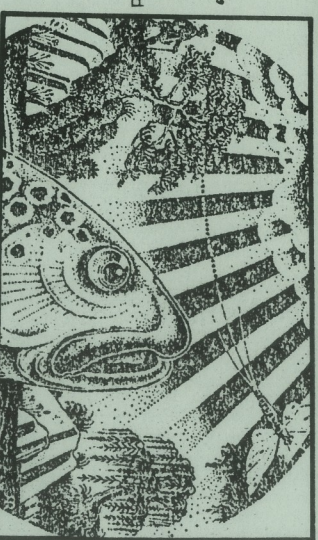


SKATING PEARS
 Distributed by
 STAG ORIENTATION, KYOTO JAPAN

QUALITY OF FISH—"I THINK I'LL PAINT SOMETHING & WATCH IT DRY"

MUSIC FOR MIDEETS MFWF 13
 Available from Frazer Nash, 40 Thompson Road, Langley Green, West Midlands. £1.20 or a blank C30 + see.

With vocals, kazoo, violin, organ, guitar etc the dynamic duo of Gareth & Colin are joined by an 'original Bombay Duck', Pete. At a recent SIVE mag meeting somebody said that any group that's party to such po-faced pretentiousness should seriously consider collectively seeing a psychiatrist! Me? I love it!



All available from Lotte Lawrence, Stack Orientation, 29 Shimokeda Kitashinrekawa Sakyo Kyoto 606 Japan. Skating Pears is a Kyoto, Japan based independent cassette label to encourage & to increase alternative & new wave bands there. They also provide a distribution service for other cassettes/cassette labels.

NOIZUNZURI—"FIGURE & GROUND"

SKATING PEARS SP-001 C50

First album from this unique band that have been performing for two years. The "Noh Beat" with which the members label their music is representative of Kyoto bands. It provides further evidence, if that was needed, of the Japanese connection in the new scheme of things loose percussive patterns trace an opening at experiment that's sparse & compelling. It's industrial folk music for the technological age plodding with such a slow & heavy plod that's truly exceptional.

VARIOUS—"B-LIVES.1"

SKATING PEARS SP-002 C50

Superbly recorded & packaged, this tape of 7 different electronic bands captured live at "dec-Bee's" bar & cafe where there are weekly performances by 'bands' who haven't access to appearing at 'mainstream' clubs. It's part one of a series with others promised soon. My own favourite is T. Furukawa's "So sweet quark soup" it's a hauntingly delicate piece that's similar to Robert Fripp's fripptronics & Philip Glass minimal keyboard-work. Beautiful stuff! It all points to a healthy development that just has to be encouraged. Another wonderful track is Psycho Theatre's "Unknown title"—the list is endless!

DRIED CELL—"LEIRAPHERA GRISEANA"

SKATING PEARS SP-003 C50

Difficult to describe the brilliant benefits of a tape made so specifically for the video soundtrack, but this is big, buoyant & blasts through with a surge of optimistic energy. It has wonderful intricate synthesiser patterns & sweep the landscape. They're tricky, slippery & unfailingly irritating. Experimental music recorded live at "Sky" in Tokyo, improvised music with FX Bass & the manipulation of tape. Dried Cell are a unit made up of Sato Kaoru of EP-4 & Nozawa Makoto of Equal. All of these are well worth further investigation.

IN PHASE records & tapes SAMPLER

PORTION CONTROL

BONA DISH

MARINE GIRLS

LEGENDARY PINK DOTS

MARRIED IN SWEDEN

VARIOUS-"SHED SOUNDS SAMPLER"

Available from Pat Birmingham, 14 Emmott Ave, Ilford, Essex. 60p C10

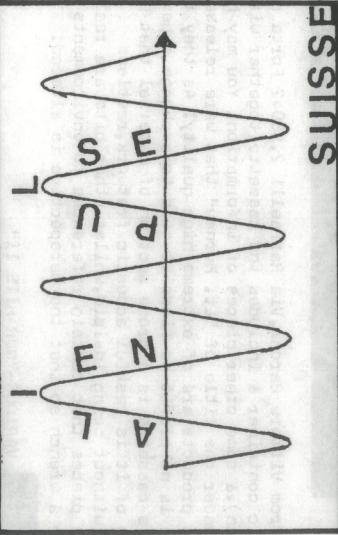
An excellent sampler tape which features snippets from each of the bands that are mentioned on the adjacent cassette liner. It's great value for money with between 2-4 tracks from all the bands included in part. We all know how wonderful The Marine Girls are, but the others, especially The Legendary Pink Dots are exceptional! This is a fine indication of the high quality of In Phase releases & for only 60p you can't lose out. Recommended.

SUISSE-"ALIEN PULSE"

MAP TAPES WAP9

Available from M. Phillips, 14 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol BS6, Avon. Send a blank C60 + sae.

This is the last Map Tape to appear. They will all be available for the rest of this year & then their products will be released on other people's compilation tapes. This item comes together with a competition & is a collection of short pieces with vocals, percussion & synthesizers. The fourth track is a collage of sounds from records & tapes that is really humorous. It also is the basis of their competition.



MICHAEL LAW-"WHITE IMAGE"

SYNFINITY 001

Available from Michael Law, The Chapel House, Perch Hill, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Nr Wells, Somerset. C45 £1.60

Michael's second cassette LP that was also recorded on a Portastudio. It continues the direction taken on "Attunement" (see last issue) & the synthesiser playing elevates the mere sound into songs which sail close to the wind of majesty. While parts are not a total success, Michael comes so close that any flaws are overlooked! Send a blank C90 together with a sae & you will get a double album of exquisite sounds.

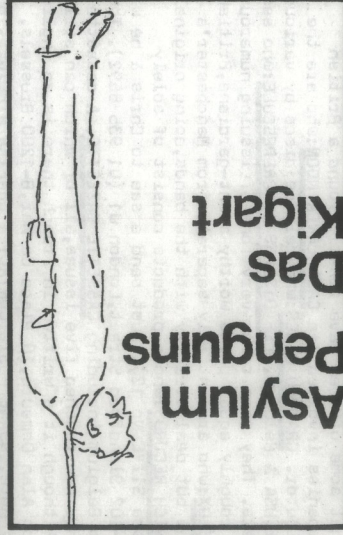


ASYLUM PENGUINS-"DAS KIGART"

HA HA! CASSETTES HH006

Available from Flat 2, 6 Portland Rise, London N4 2PP. £1 C30

A collage of various sounds that stimulate the parts that others don't. I think that these musical sounds are in fact being played backwards on some tracks with the lyrics overdubbed. Synthesizers hiss & belch from all directions especially on the extended track "Radiation priest", whilst on "Griddle" they turn into waves crashing on the beach. Throughout, the eerie vocals add a strange dimension to these recordings.



THE DIGITAL DINOSAURS

Both are available from Chris Sidwell, 18 Raphael Close, Whoberly, Coventry, CV5 8LR, West Midlands.

"THE BEDROOM TAPES"

SPOTT RECORDS PUSS 5 £1.50 C30

More goodies from the ever excellent Dinos who on this cassette display their wonderful songs in demo form. These rehearsal tapes do contain some real rough diamonds! Their good parody of Sly Stone's "Dance to the music" is of particular note, from the bounce along vocals on "Sideways man" to the stylophone virtuoso on "Apatha" to the plodding dinosaur of "Sidwell's fringe"-these are all superb songs. It's interesting to compare the demo version of "Desert island risk" with the final studio version that's on...

"HIT SINGLES COLLECTION"

SPOTT RECORDS PUSS 6 £1.50 C30

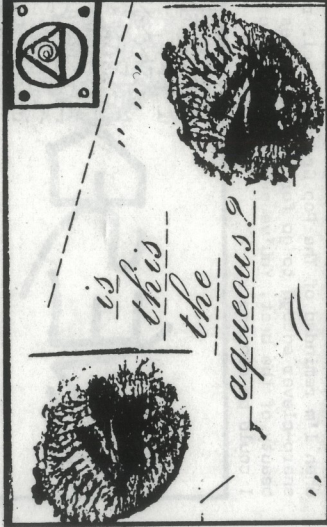
The lazy instrumental "Radio six" which drifts in to "Desert island risk" features some great guitar work. The dentist's lament "Music for the teeth" & their 'tribute' to "Sheena E" are unbelievably good, as is their "What a....(disco mix)/...bloody life". The rhythm section really steam along at full tilt. This is undoubtedly the best tape yet to come from the band & are eight studio tracks of quality & distinction that come highly recommended.

THE INNERPROPRIATES-IS THIS THE AQUEOUS?

CLIMBING THE LADDER 1

Available from A. Davidson, 76 Sullivan Court, Fulham SW6 3DB. £1.75 C60

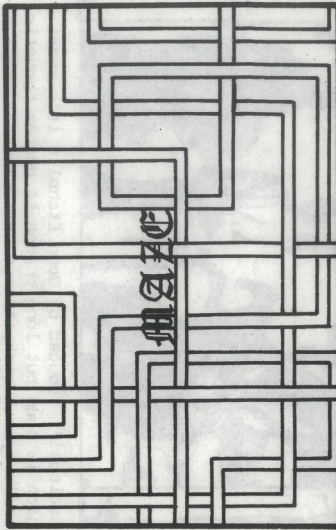
The band comprises of various members of MLR (whose tapes have been mentioned in past SIIVE) & an appearance by Nik Turner (he of Hawkwind fame). Like other MLR products this tape is strong in enthusiasm & excellent songs. Short of the prospect of immortality & a pools win, what could be better than the opening "Fadies cry"-a great ditty that for the title of psychedelic anthem of 1982. Like yesterday never went away, & tomorrow never knows! The rhythm section are as smooth as a Botham century & as for those guitars, well...



JONATHAN RUSH-"MAZE"

Available from Jonathan Rush, 21 Ponsford Rd, Knowle, Bristol, Avon. £2.20 C40

Sixteen varied tracks of electronic & acoustic music that's performed by Jonathan & some friends. It's a joy of a release, it has the cool clarity of ice on the razor's edge of fine steel-"Orbit" is a rigorous & consummated arrangement with all manner of rhythm exhortations as well as the grafting crafted boost of background punctuation. Do buy it in the sort of quantities to help Jonathan Rush become this year's thing. It shifts like Steve Dvett on a good day & I highly recommend it to you all.



COLLECTOR'S CLASSICS (3)

THE RISING SONS (GROUCHO RECORDS LTD-MAR-X 38501)

Diving duck blues/Untitled/Got my 44/Sorry to tell you/Down to Mexico/Sorry to tell you reprise/Street outside your mind/Untitled/She don't love me no more/3R-30 (I got a little)/By & by/Sunny street/Walkin' down the line/Candy man/Devil got my woman/Corrina/Corrina/Sorry to tell you.

Now this is an interesting & very tasty little morsal. I didn't even know of it's existence until Mr Wall of SLIVE told me of it,even though I'm one of the biggest Ry Cooder fans that you'll find. The Rising Sons for anybody like me that doesn't know,were the aforementioned Mr Cooder on guitar,slide guitar & mandolin,Taj Mahal on guitar & harmonica,(both of whom went on to work together on the first Taj Mahal CBS LP-"Taj Mahal" CBS/Direction 863279),Gary Markan on base,two drummers,Kevin Kelly (of Byrds fame) & Ed Cassidy (of Spirit fame) & a gentleman on vocals called Jessie Lee Kincaid,of whom I've never heard before,although I doubt the accuracy of the sleeve notes,because I'd swear blind that Messrs Cooder & Mahal take lead vocals too. Yes the LP was actually released on Grouch Records,who are responsible for both The Charltons & the quicksilver Messenger Service live LPs (thanks to the almost non-existence of any copyright law in Italy),& don't I wish I had a copy!

The music is a potpourri of rhythm 'n' blues,west coast pop,country blues & rock & features some beautiful guitar,slide & mandolin from our two heroes. It opens with a fairly standard version of Sleepy John Estes "Diving duck blues" & then changes mood completely by going into an untitled west coastie with some lovely slide,presumably from Ry. On the third track,"Got my 44",I'd swear it was Mahal singing unless Kincaid is a good sound alike. Whoever it is,he is accompanied by a beautiful cajun style backing of mandolin,harmonica & slide,the combination of the latter two instruments giving it an almost accordion-type authentic cajun sound. Track 4 is an even bigger surprise. It's called "Sorry to tell you" & sounds like something straight out of the Monkees songbook! On this one,I'd say it was Ry & Taj harmonising. Country rock comes next with "Down to Mexico",which is the sort of thing that you'd expect from The Nitty Gritty Dirtband or even Lindisfarne! A short reprise of "Sorry to tell you",before it's back to the Los Angeles Byrd-ish sound,again reminiscent of the Monkees,which is no surprise,as it's "Take a giant step",a song covered by the Monkees (the b-side of "Last train to Clarksville").

On another track & yet another twist-an acoustic number,again untitled,but a very pleasant song & easily one of the best tracks on the album. The lead vocals have strains of both Ry & Taj again,but presumably it's Kincaid again. Gosh,this is superb. Worth having the whole album just for this! This tape certainly is full of surprises. Next up is a stomping Everly Brothers type number with some magnificent bottleneck. The vocals sound different again. You're not going to convince me that this is the same guy singing lead on this as on the last track.

"3R-30" next & this I'm sure is Taj on lead vocal-I'd put money on it-it's so typical of the r & b style of his first LP. This is followed by "By & by",another of my favourite tracks-it's full of mandolin & bottleneck & sounds like Ry singing again. It could almost be a Ry Cooder solo track with the instruments overdubbed. Back to the San Francisco sound again with "Sunny street". I'm not so keen on this sort of material as I am on the bluesier stuff,although this track has a haunting melody reminiscent of the early Country Joe & the fish songs. "Walkin' down the line" is another Byrd-ish number with a guitar riff stolen right off The Searchers' "When you walk in the room". The tape finishes with versions of three blues standards. A good bouncy version of Mississippi John Hurt's "Candyman" with Kincaid definitely on vocal on this one,followed by a rather half-hearted rendition of Skip James "I'd rather be a devil" & finally a fairly pleasant "Corina Corina" with Kincaid,Cooder & Mahal all sharing the vocals.

This is a really interesting & enjoyable tape with a lot of historical interest,especially as The Rising Sons minus Kincaid & with a different rhythm section eventually evolved into the first Taj Mahal Band on that classic first LP of his. Taj still regularly includes three of the tracks from this set in his repertoire,"Diving duck blues","Corina" & more recently with the International Rhythm Band,"Take a giant step". The problem is,you cannot get hold of "Rising Sons" very easily. If anybody out there has got a copy to sell,I'd pay a good price for it,to complete my Ry Cooder collection.

J.Clare

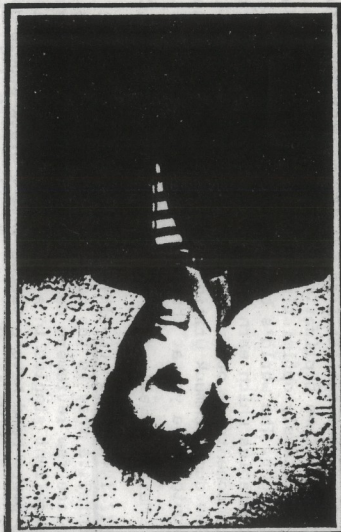
MUSIC FOR MIDGETS

This is a new cassette label that has taken over the distribution of various tape labels which include "Conventional Tapes". It works in three ways:-they sell to shops for between £1.30-£1.70;you can send a blank tape plus a sae & they will record it for free;or just send £1 (which includes postage) & they will record it on to a good quality tape (Sony). For a free copy of their catalogue send a sae to;Frazier Nash,40 Thompson Road,Lamgley Green,West Midlands.

THE CLEANERS FROM VENUS-"ON ANY NORMAL MONDAY" MAN AT THE OFF-LICENCE TAPES 1

Available from Martin Newell,23 West Street, Wivenhoe,Essex. C30 £1

Sometimes what you hear when the playback head hits the tape is so much more than mere words & music that it makes you wonder why the other millions all bother. The Cleaners, alias Martin Newell & Lawrence Elliott,have painstakingly,intuitively constructed tape works that know no cultural nor reverential bounds. I call them 'works' because that's what they are-unique masterpieces perfectly flawed between idiosyncrasy & expectation. This tape should be perverting & purging our pop charts. They are one peerlessly perfect pop group! These eleven tracks come close to being classic,serene & sedate. It's a real nugget. There seems to be so many detectable influences-from the Merseybeat vocals to the west coast guitar work-it just oozes style. There's smoke in the air & I don't mean ten woodbines;there's booze in the glass & I don't mean brown ale. It's a large & confident step forward. Guitars, ideas,drums,passion,voices...none of them new ingredients,but it's rare that anyone puts them together so effectively as this. A massive,powerful sound,touched by a little bit of magic. The busy rhythms skid & scuttle,packed with wit & ideas,together with multiple layers of pastiche. In other words there's a world inside this tape that which gives us elements of hope-which is good;& confusion-which is honest;& skill-which is stunning!



CHRIS SIEVEY-"DENIGRATION NOW-THE SONGS"

CV SONGS CV1

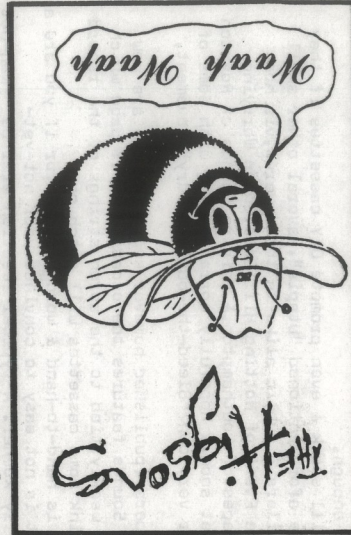
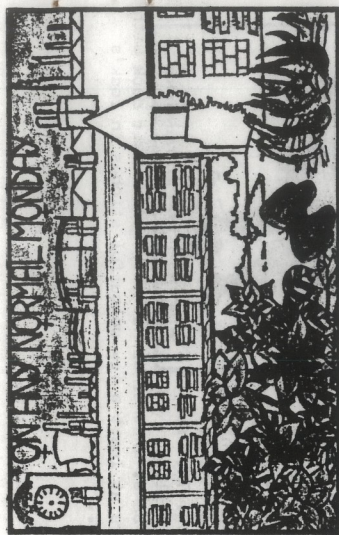
Available from CV Songs,3 Moorside House, Oakleigh Court,Imperley,WA15 6UG C30 With The Freshies sadly gone,the SS Sievey sails on. For £3 you get this exceptional tape together with membership of the fan club. This & the above tape provide timely evidence of the compatibility of pop for the head & beat for the feet-we may not be talking hit here,but with the cross that's recently been ruling the roost,the charts can in no way be considered pop's best barometer. This near perfect crack is breathless,rampant,forcefully controlled & jubilantly imaginative! Where is free "Johnny Radar" cassette Chris?

PORTION CONTROL-"DINING ON THE FRESH" Available from Pat Birmingham,14 Emmott Avenue,Ilford, Essex C70 £1.30 This four track tape provides a perfect dance floor soundtrack that suggests exciting new thresholds in the body movement business. For your money you get the cassette EP, a two track flexidisc,posters & a badge. This band could grow & develop into a beautiful hybrid given the chance..Their cassette LP "Gaining momentum" is also available from the above address for only £1.80.

THE HIGSONS-"LIVE AT THE JACQUARD CLUB, NORMICH" CHAOS TAPES-LIVE 008

Available from most record shops £4

Grab this while you can as there's only 4000 pressed & each one is numbered. After their three impressive singles comes this artifact. Those singles it turns out,were no more than prototypes for the supercharged sleek,low-down,chrome-trimmed dragster that burns rubber all over the tape deck here. This is ideally one for playing in August with the french windows wide open. It's highly recommended listening for all of your neighbours.



VARIOUS—"MUSIC FOR MIDGETS"

MUSIC FOR MIDGETS TAPES MEMPI Available from Fraser Nash, 40 Thompson Rd, Langley Green, West Midlands. C60 (see page 8 for financial details etc)

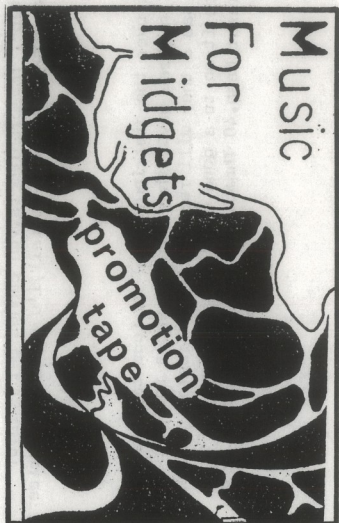
A good sampler that takes most of its material from the now deleted 'Convention Tapes'. All of the acts now have their previous tape LPs released through Music For Midgets. It's nice that someone has taken the time & trouble to retain these items for our enjoyment instead of their usual deletion bound horizon. Write to Fraser enclosing a see for his catalogue.

POP FOR GUNS?...80'S MUSIC AT 60'S PRICES

You are a person of alternatives, right? You read alternative papers, eat alternative food, keep one eye on the environment & the other on the politicians. So when you relax, dance or entertain, what goes on your turntable? Alternative music? Wrong! What you are probably

listening to is five or six quids worth of vinyl (oil by-product often stock-piled by the Americans & Japanese) imprinted for your listening pleasure with the ramalama of your choice, courtesy of our marvellous music business. All this of course assumes that you are not one of three (or is it really four?) million unemployed, in which case you can't afford five or six quid for a slice of fashion-drenched plastic in an attractive sleeve. What can you do? Well, you can dig out the old favourites (or maybe not so favourites now), listen to someone else's sounds, or put up with the drive-in fast-food upon you by some lobotomoid DJ on ravishing Radio 1. Apart from catching the odd band locally, or home-taping (& I'm not publicly advocating a piracy collective—necessarily) when you are out of money you are out of touch, although you could not be blamed for not wanting to be in touch these days. There is, however, an embryonic resistance to the establishment music business. The burgeoning independent record scene of 1977 was looking pretty good for a minute—until it got swallowed up or annexed by the major record companies, but this could be the real thing. Whether or not it is, depends on you, the listener/musician. Due to the recent growth of cheap multi-tracking tape machines & cheap local studios, it is now possible for comparatively small bands or artists to turn out an inexpensive but quality recording, if they know what they are doing. This option also ensures that the artist remains unhindered by the plethora of producers, managers & other onanists, who may previously have had artistic control over performers by virtue of the fact that they & not the artists were picking up the bill.

DIY cassette recordings could become the order of the day, because all over the UK, bands with simply no choice, are, out of desperation if nothing else, making & selling their own product. The standards vary accordingly, & the content of a DIY tape can range from a 1-2-3-4 punk thrash & tortuous avant-garde obscurantism, right through to an Oldfield type neo-classical masterpiece. It is looking very promising—especially in the light of the fact that most of these cassettes retail at around the fifty pence to two pound mark. One enterprising west country band released a double-cassette for only one pound, by buying up old unsaleable commercial cassettes (in this case David Cassidy) & recording over them. At the time of writing, a shop selling only DIY cassettes & calling itself "Utopia" has opened in Notting Hill Gate, let us hope it flourishes. Why not local music by local artists for local people? Well, for a start it would clog up the wheels of capitalism & loosen the system's grip, & naturally the record companies would not like it. The system, via the media, keeps us all nicely drugged up with its own particular brand of soma, & it employs a legion of safe (by the time they reach us) artists, to give the product & its packaging the necessary injection of spirituality to convince us that we are still rebelling in our own way, or, as the NME cocktail set would put it "dance, don't riot". One the rare occasions when something raw has broken in to the national charts the establishment has simply ignored it. Hence, in Jubilee week 1977, when The Sex Pistols achieved the grande coup of a chart No 1 with "God Save the Queen", it received no airplay or mentions, & according to the wall-charts in WH Smiths & Boots record departments, there was no number one record for that week. One thing is for certain, the cassette revolution will not be televised!



So how do the brave new aural gymnasts get the tunes out of their hearts & into your ears without being either corrupted & watered down by the music business, or ripped off & eventually disillusioned by the number of intervening sharks? Even the most well-meaning of performers will succumb to the machine if they get hungry enough.

A few adventurous independent record shops will stock & even promote DIY cassettes if they are sufficiently well motivated. Apart from the aforementioned "Utopia", several other small concerns are valiantly trying to interest retailers & public alike in their wares, via home grown catalogues. The most notable of these are F.O.F. of Notting Hill Gate, Sheep Worrying Products of Bridgewater, Stick It In Your Ear Tapes of Southampton, & Leisure Sounds of Royston Herts. I shall be compiling an information sheet soon, & hopefully corresponding with some of these fellow deviants, as well as organising our very own "bleed-the-business-dry" movement, locally.

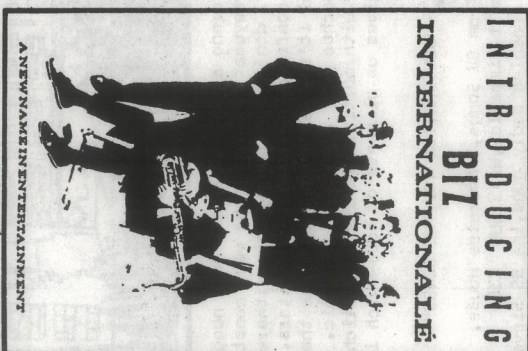
A small network of fanzines & alternative papers (published however sporadically) are now beginning to run cassette ads & reviews, & even Sounds features the occasional DIY page which is as much as we dare hope for from a national weekly, tied to the apron strings of the record majors. One can only assume that they don't think home cassettes will catch on.

The only other way to sell your own products is hand-to-hand & word of mouth, or if you are a working act, at gigs. Simple as it may appear it is not easy to convince your not-yet-alternative public that the DIY cassette is fully kosher. A typical reaction will be "yeah—not bad, sounds just like a real record", & he or she will part with their money a mile more reluctantly than they would if being told by the music press that their life will be enriched by paying five pounds or more for a company product. This, as they say, is the rub. We can only try... & try... & try, because things are not going to get any better between now & Armageddon. Interested? If you are a broke (or otherwise) would be listener, watch the fanzines, ask at the more left-field record shops & talk to local bands. If you are a musician or a live poet get out of your garage & do it! If you want any information about cheap recording time, hi-speed or real time duplication, or distribution, you can get it from me at the address below.

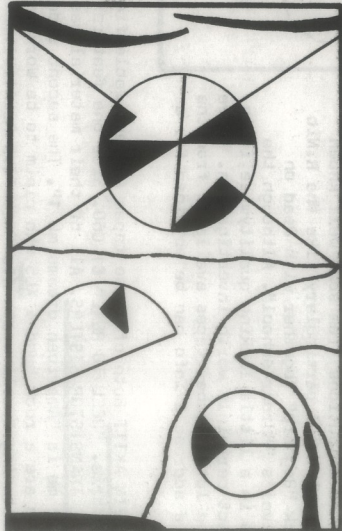
Hopelessly optimistic? Maybe, but if you are really thinking alternatives, here's food for thought. The world's biggest recording organisation (EMI) is one of an estimated 8000 British companies which earn part or all of their profits from the production of weapons, weapon components or other military equipment (*source: C.A.A.T Campaign Against Arms Trade June 1981) The dumb schmuck writing this was once (unknowingly at the time) signed to them for a few months. See you at the record (s)hop!

Martin Newell. "Man at the off-licence tapes", Colne House, 23 West Street, Wivenhoe, Essex.

BIZ INTERNATIONAL—"INTRODUCING..." Only my feet can review this... & they're too busy shimmying, slipping & sliding to a place few reviewers dare tread. Heaven! After releasing two excellent singles in a slightly different carnation, the new 8 piece band have produced this 6 track studio demo at the Music Room, Wesssex-Biz are a hurricane of style. Bright & snappy with a host of ideas, it's subversive, seductive, with more grit than a wedge of sandstone, it prouls like a school of sharks just itching to romp off a limb! & yet they've never had a hit, suffering instead the small-label sickness of poor promotion, negligible airplay & consequent oblivion. Maybe if they knew how to chum up to the "right" people in the "right" scenes things might go more their way, but all they seem concerned with is the opportunity to go on making superb live performances—& more power to them for it! Sharp & shining with more than a little sold pop sense. Ronnie & Ian's songs have combined the priceless enthusiasm of the freshest pop group with something of the heroic & struck upon a valuable purity. They transcend the putrid vagaries of fashion & spurious favour, just got on with doing what they pleased, & invented a mixture of penetrating comment, pop accuracy, verbal magic, a certain kind of richness that is calculated to do nothing but refresh the spirits! The brass section "The Purple Horns" are delicate, brassy, skillful, compassionate, sophisticated... the icing on the cake. Whether or not they break their duck with future 45s, they've already done enough to assure at least a few colourful stitches in rock's rich tapestry. Unpick 'em while they're bright...



STUDIO 12 is an independent cassette label that has recently opened a cassetteshop in Haarlem, Holland, which is working on an independent network for cassette distribution etc. Therefore they hope to initiate an exchange system of tapes. So far they have themselves released four tape LPs (see page 23) & two singles: C1 Nexda C60; C2 Compilation of Haarlem bands C60; C3 Muzak (Haarlem band) C60; C4 Karin & Ivo C30; S1 single Cargo Cultus-Nexda & a shortly to be issued 12" by the same band. If you're interested in any of their material, or in exchanging your tapes send a couple of IRC's to Studio 12, Postbox 6358, Haarlem, Holland.



VARIOUS—"DREAMS OF REALITY" BROKEN SKULL TAPES-SKULL 2

Available from 147 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0LD. C60 £1.60 or in exchange for a copy of your tape/fanzine etc.

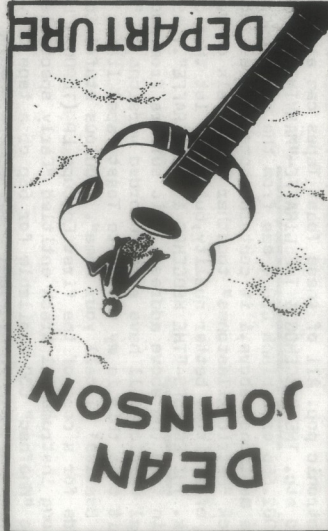
A good smattering of talent on this item. It's certainly a good indication of the varied catalogue that Broken Skull have & it varies from synthesizer music to poems etc. But the real find must be the musical bits pastiche that are performed by Steven Wilson together with the excerpts from Map Tapes. As with most tapes of this type, there will be things you like & some you won't. But that's the great thing about samplers!

DRUIDS OF SPACE—"DRUID"

ZAG & THE COLOURED BEADS CASSETTES 2
Available from 6 Greville Avenue, Selesdon, Surrey, CR2 8NL. £1 C60

Blow away the clouds of apathy that clog up the airwaves, step forward into the light- & hear how every track here thrilled me & set me the same old problem of trying to instill into words their merits & what goes with that. The words! How do you, for instance explain calmly, not to say rationally that the Druids' lot are probably the last great hope of rock in this country? Don't listen to me, just send off your quid & await the delights that will return shortly. Recommended.

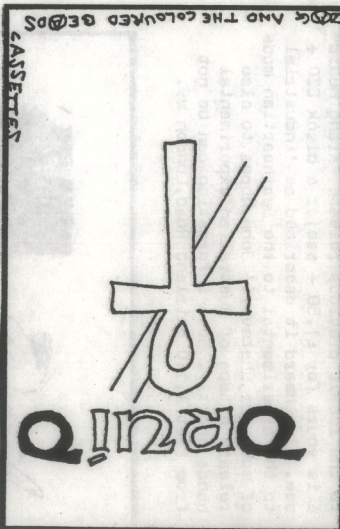
SHOCKWAVE—"THE SHOCK TAPES". SHOCK CASSETTES 002. C60. A bunch of 14 year old lads have put this tape together & it features them performing their spirited stuff over rather shapeless musical ideas & sounds. It's a shame that they seem to be so meandering as with just a little more thought, things could have been appreciably better. Their second tape "TRYAGEN" is a much better prospect—crackerjack pencils all round for effort. Both are available for 60p + s&e from Craig Bevan, 43 Kinver Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 5AB.



DEAN JOHNSON—"DEPARTURE" PEAR SOUND TAPES

Available from Dean Johnson, Stonehearth, Roman Road, Prenton, Wirral, Merseyside. £1.50 C20

This tape certainly is a departure for Dean in that as he says on the liner: "without Gavin Armstrong's help & interest this would have been another folk album". Seven tracks that flip the coin to unveil a launch-pad to the very centre of rock's broken soul. Hear how these recordings are turned to towering advantage on "Predecessor" with just piano & a growling electric guitar. This is as close as it's going to get... & closer yet.



FISH ON BOARD—"PADDLE FOR SAFETY"

TERMINAL TAPES SD01

Available from Flat 2, 6 Portland Rise, London N4 2PP. £1.20 C46

This is made up of various songs from the first 2 Ha Ha! tapes—Oscar Hodgeson's (HH001) "Wanting honesty" & The Plastic Fireman's (HH002) "In & out the large room". Although the sound quality lapses in places its generally good, & the shortish songs are very atmospheric. I particularly like "from the cradle" with its drone-like guitar & heavy percussion. Send a s&e to the above address for details of their other tape releases.

RADIO FREE EUROPE—"79A" Available from PO Box 5421, Austin, Texas 78763, USA. C45

The first I heard of Radio Free Europe was another cassette, '799', reviewed in *SLIYE 2*. As said then, it was a very good cassette mostly instrumental, distinctive atmospherics that would have made good soundtrack material for "The Twilight Zone" or some similar American late 50's black & white tv production. RFE were obviously into kitsch, in fact, not to be considered as art but capable of being genuinely creepy at their best moments (like those tv things). There was no information included except a track listing, but I came to hear of their other releases: more cassettes, a double single, a single ("It likes you", a song, unusually poppy). I was interested... then last year came their LP "Laughoncue", a British release on Armageddon. It was highly disappointing, despite including "It likes you" & half a dozen things from '799'. Listening to "Laughoncue" it became clear that the cassette had been very much helped by good programming & presentation: there you had just a couple of songs at the beginning, & the rest of the LP given to short instrumental fragments, which in the end became quite tedious & limited-sounding. Things weren't helped by an appalling cover—not only was it ugly & unevocative, it also made the fatal mistake of listing details of how every last sound was made on each track. (Really, it just defeats the object if you're doing abstract sounds & atmospherics). A terrible waste, not to mention an annoying one.

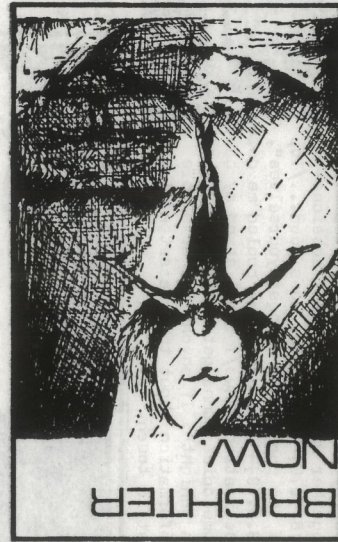
But now a copy of '79A', early 1979 recordings as the title would suggest, has come into my hands. It's somewhere between the above two. Again not so well organised, & with some failures (a couple of improvisations which don't take off, a pointlessly 'weird' reading of "I'm not your stepping stone" which takes away the original dynamic of the song & doesn't put anything in its place) still most of it achieves the right feeling. They actually do a cover of the theme from "Peter Gunn" on this one, too, even if it is barely recognisable, though the kitsch-iest moment is the last track "Cold dark night" with its hammy voice-over. Whole thing worth hearing, though not as good as '799'. I'd like to hear '80A' if there's a copy out there...

Philip Johnson

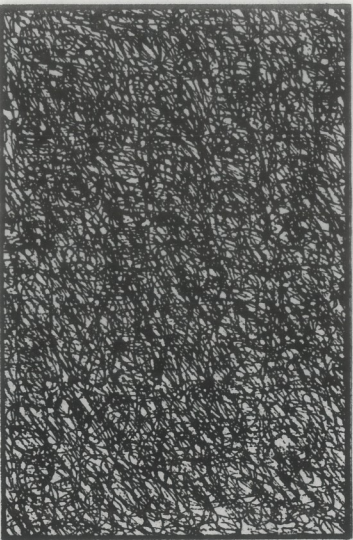
THE LEGENDARY PINK DOTS—"BRIGHTER NOW" IN PHAZE TAPES 004

Available from Pat Birmingham, 14 Emmott Ave, Ilford, Essex £1.80 C30

Another ringpull, another lonely night, another requisite Legendary Pink Dots tape! It shows you its pleasure, asks for nothing in return; it is different enough in snatches of detail to turn your head, & familiar enough to flower in the most barren market-place. Dig in! I know little about them, but attractive & equally intriguing music seems to represent a new strand of Euro-pop: in such early days which usually marks & traces emulation, these boys have transcended all that & created something freshly stylish. I really like the simple cunning & lack of clutter on these six tracks. Each is an epic. A few repeated plays of "Hanging gardens" & the elaborately but effortlessly mixed "Red castles" & you'll be totally convinced. They triumph with their bittersweet cadences of underplayed elegance. Sublime moments that have the guile, the grin, to capture any audience at any time in any place. It must be a gigantic hit!



THE HEDGEHOG & THE GIRAFFE-"THE LISTENER", TOAST TAPES TL0001, 60p or a blank C30 + sae from Colin McGuigan, 6 Fir Drive, Newtownards, County Down, Northern Ireland, BT23 4HH. The first tape from Colin & his girlfriend, Barbara Black, is a departure from their more mainstream style (in which they are known as "The Eggcups") & they play a lot of acoustic guitar, & more accessible electronic pop. All of these Toast Tapes can also be obtained for a swap tape of your own band etc. **THE HEDGEHOG & THE GIRAFFE**-"MARVIN HAS ALWAYS FANCIED BEING A CHAIR", TOAST TAPES TL0002, 65p or a blank C30 + sae from the above address. This is very similar to the first LP tape mentioned above, & it contains some interesting ideas. I particularly like the opening track "Metric milestones" together with "Walk on water". It's a real shame that the sound is not of a little better quality, but don't let that detract you from this continually demanding work. **THE EGGCUPS**-"THE HEDGEHOG & THE GIRAFFE", TOAST TAPES TL0003, 65p or a blank C30 + sae again from the above address. This suffers from poor quality at times & it's likely that the final version will have a re-recorded versions of "Hard rock" & "I call your name". I must admit that this is my favourite Toast Tape! It has 7 tracks that are all good, one of which is The Beatles' "I call your name". Fabulous stuff! Colin mentions in his letter that if anyone sends for a copy of the first Eggcups LP (TL0003) by the blank C60 method, they will also get a long instrumental track entitled "Early spectacles" as a free bonus. There is also another tape "Whafbac" C30 available for 65p or a tape of your own band.



HARRY ZANLEY-"SLEEP"
CODED INFORMATION CASSETTES
Available from 366 New Cross Road, London SE14. This thirty minute cassette consists of two extended improvised electronic pieces performed on an EMS AMS synth. It's similar to the labels previous release "Kwang Music" & is yours for £1.50 + sae, or a blank C30 + sae. I've heard it described as "industrial to the experimental to the Beethovenian mode of music or whatever!" John hopes to also release a tape of Australian experimental bands shortly. More information can be got from Flat A, 110 Shirland Road, London W9.

VARIOUS-"ULTIMATE VISIONS SUPPRESSED!"

BROKEN SKULL TAPES-SKULL 003
Available from 147 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0LD. £1.60 or a swap for your own work.

A good fifteen band/individual sampler with contributions from some well known DIY artists. I particularly like the R.N.I.b track "Bogharp" together with Dead on Arrival's "Murder school". Although the tape is a little lacking qualitatively, it is in fact certainly worth investigation. There are a lot of other tapes available from the above address & info can be obtained for a see.



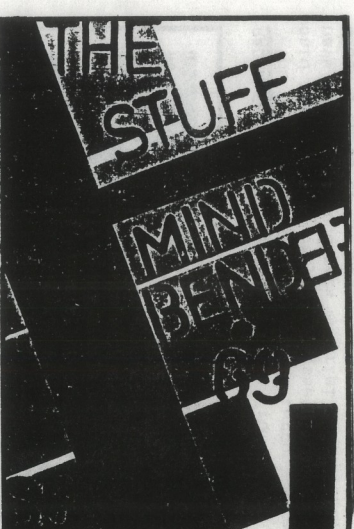
KEVIN AKITT Both of these tapes are available from Kevin at 31 Oxford Street, Worthington, Cumbria. "PEEL TO REAL" £1 C60. Side one features 9 songs from the excellent new wavers, **THE TRANSISTOR SISTERS**. All of their material was written by Kevin, & the stand-out track for me is "American dreams mk 1". The second side has two of his other bands-TIME LAPSE who are a rock band & XLS who claim to be Worthington's first punk band! It's recommended listening & well worth £1. "RELATIVE RELATIVITY" is Kevin's second cassette LP release & he plays all the instruments, sings the songs, & did his own recordings. Again it's a C60 & only costs £1. He uses various Casio keyboards, & guitars which sound to me as though they have been double-tracked. Super pop music that is highly recommended listening! I'm looking forward to his next project, whatever it may be. It's bound to be good...

THE REZILLOS-"ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?"
This just dropped through the letter-box one morning with no information except for the Edinburgh postmark, so I assume that it's a bootleg. Which is a real shame because it includes some excellent live material from the OGMI (29.9.78)-"Destination Venus/Get me down/My baby does good sculptures", together with 2 John Peel sessions-(18.1.78)-"No/My baby does good.../Top of the pops/fight amongst yourselves", (8.6.78)-"Cold wars have cooled me down/Destination Venus/I can't stand my baby/Somebodies gonna get their head kicked in tonight". If anyone has some more information about this cassette please get in touch.

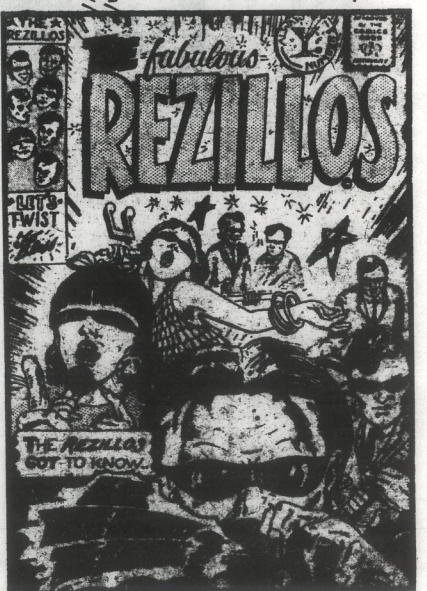


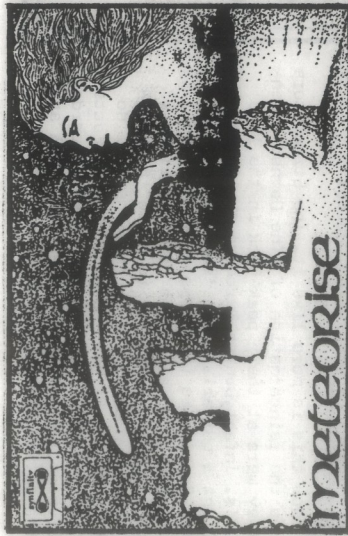
THE EVENT GROUP
Available from Rough Trade Mailorder, 202 Kensington Park Road, London W11, C30 £2
A 1980's "Principle Edward's Magic Theatre". It consists of four of the prepared tapes they use live at their "multi-media" gigs, that are remixed & with added items. Exciting, humorous & refreshingly unpretentious. The Event Group manage to stimulate! It's infinitely more enjoyable than most grisly soundtracks that go under the somewhat dubious label (which seems to be evermore common) 'experimental music'. This tape has been out for quite a long time now so I suggest you write to enquire if it's still available...

idid idid-"MOLOKO PLUS/MOLOKO MINUS DUB" Available from Paul Carter, 31 St Catherine's Road, Eastleigh, Hants. £1.50 C20. A warm atmospheric wash that just has to be listened to on stereo headphones. Reactions from enraptured people listening on a personal hi-fi in the pub have produced words like 'hypnotic' & 'psychedelic' & comparisons to Laurie Anderson's "Oh Superman" early Human League/Velvet Underground/Van der Graff Generator/Neu/Faust etc. What does it all mean? Actually, it's a different kind of electronic dance music to all others at the moment: a waltz (& no latin american influences whatsoever!). The tongue-in-cheek lyrics run around in circles, overlap, change & break up as the whole thing builds up to a climax. More a melodrama than a song. John Heywood's Avenue Studio has again produced another gem! Recommended.



THE STUFF-"MIND BENDER/69"
STUFF LABEL 55
Available from Martin Rawlinson, 105 Central Hill, Upper Norwood, London SE19 1BW. £1 or a blank C60 + sae.
The extended peace of synthesizer music that's entitled "Mind bender" is the real tour-de-force on this tape. Lasting for 7 of the cassette length it constantly pulls the listener into new areas of musical awareness. It stimulates the senses. The 3 shorter pieces on the "69" side are similar in construction, but are of less epic proportions. It just has to be heard played as loud as possible. More next issue about the other Stuff stuff.





THE BPI GETS STABBED IN THE WALLET

After months of trying to convince us all that it would only be fair for the Government to introduce a levy on blank tapes the National Consumer Council has basically said forget it. Maurice Healy, chairman of the NCC's Consumer Policy Unit, said "anything that holds the development of new, more competitive ways of delivering the product which the consumers want—that is, the music—should be avoided". He also made the point that there's no way a convincing case could be made for a levy & that since by buying a record you, the consumer, already make one payment to copyright holders, you should be free in law to re-record for your own purposes. The NCC added: 1) When consumers re-record records on to a tape what they are doing in practice is saying that the price of the record is too high. 2) To subsidise the record industry by putting a tax on recording equipment & tape would be to subsidise the past rather than to encourage the commercial opportunities for the future. 3) There are plenty of people who use their equipment & tapes legally—why should they be asked to pay a levy? 4) The law against re-recording at home is 'absurd & completely unenforceable'. It's safe to say that the BPI are going to keep on bleating about 'the millions lost to home taping per year' but at last it seems that some forces are gathering in opposition to help fight our case!

LURCH—"AUROCH"

Available from Lurch, Potash Cottage, Woods Lane, Melton, Nr Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1LH. This is Lurch's fifth cassette release & it lasts for C90 & costs only £1.75. Again there are similarities to his previous LPs, with him performing his songs on guitar & various percussive devices. There is an almost 'raga'-like quality to these tunes especially on "Reflections in gold" & "The unearthly dance" which both appear on the 'songs' side of the tape, as opposed to the second 'stories' side. For more details of this & the previous other releases by Lurch send a s.a.e to the above address.

PARIS—"VOX POPULI" PRESENTS... C60. Available from Anel Kyrou, 191 Avenue du Maine, 75014 Paris, France. The Vox Populi! contribution to this tape is extremely interesting. It's just a demo of tracks which have not been commercialised. The eleven tracks that they provide vary in context, but basically they are in the experimental vein. Also on the tape are **ROCK CRITICS**, who are again experimental; **UN DEPARTMENT**, a good band; **MARQUIS DE SAUD**, a now defunct premier new wave band who made two superb LPs; **ORCHESTRE ROUGE**, a radio broadcast from the "Bus Palladium". Paris, who shortly have an LP released which is produced by svengali, Martin Hannet. This really is a fine cassette that certainly deserves much attention. There appears to be a lot of great music coming out of France recently, more of which will be in the next issue.

THE SUBWAY ORGANIZATION, Martin Whitehead, White Croft, 4 Rylestone, Grove, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 3UT, is an independent organisation which acts as a distribution service for both tapes & fanzines. They also publish their own fanzine, *Underground Romance*, which I believe has now reached issue number 3. As they say on their broadsheet: when the system sucks—the system

MICHAEL LAW—"METEORISE"

SYNFINITY 005

Available from Michael Law, The Chapel House, Perch Hill, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Nr Wells, Somerset £2.95 or a blank C46 + 60p

Michael's third tape release hits paydirt. Look up & you're in Tangerine Dream's Europe, Can's back garden, admiring the bouncing chords of synthesizers. The two live tracks are most impressive with "Moonwards" intertwining patterns locking together in a scaffolding that stands on air! Highly recommended stuff. Michael also offers mobile recording services & hopes to cover most of Somerset, Dorset, Avon, Wiltshire, Devon etc for which he charges only £3.50 per hour—phone 074 987 502 for details.

STEVE AINSWORTH—"HALL OF MIRRORS"

TERMINAL TAPES SD02

Available from Terminal Tapes, Flat 2, 6 Port Portland Rise, London N4 2PP. £1.20 C46

A magnificent piece of acoustic pop music that has been collated from Steve's previous four cassette LPs that were released on the Tapeworm label. It's one of those rare tapes that conceals ingenuity behind a simple clenched fist. "Standing still" has a really glorious consonance at its heart, enshrining a great march motif, that's brought to its knees by a superb ugly guitar line that has the last word. It's so obvious & so brilliantly thought through. Highly recommended.



SCHWARZWALDER KIRSCHTORTE—"UNSER HAUSMEISTER"

SLOB TAPES 001

Available from Bob of Slob, Slob Tapes, 17 Innis Road, Earlsdon, Coventry, West Midlands. £1 C30

Here's something to add to your probably small collection of obscure groups from the Black Forest! It's a strange tape that winds itself up like a tightening noose with the band bolting towards hysteria without ever succumbing to the final drop. Excellent! It leaves you wanting more. Pass another slice of Black Forest Gateau please. A boojangly thrumming of electric guitars, a singer of artless, wheeling charm. Steal some today!



RIFF CLICHÉ—"SHOP ROCK TURTLE MUSIC"

ERASEHEAD CASSETTES ERC 011

Available from 43 Wyley Road, Radford, Coventry, West Midlands. £1.50 or a blank C60 + s.a.e. Well, light my joss sticks! West Coast music makes a welcome return at last. Unfussy, endemically cheerful sounds that emanate from a group which seem to be so in control of a fabulously tough dance music which draws its tensions from pop & the aforementioned West Coast style of things. I'd be pleased to find this on any jukebox anywhere. Some people just have to keep making records/tapes because they can't help themselves—I hope this is one!



HALL OF MIRRORS

MIC WOODS & FRIENDS—"SPIRITS HAVE DROWNED"

MONITOR MUSIC MM2

Available from Mic Woods, Monitor Music, 38 Barnfield Gardens, Barnfield Estate, Plumstead, London SE 18. £1 or a blank C60 + s.a.e

The Instant Automaton's guitarist again has produced another gem. The rock pulse starts again! The long overdue return of a man who ought to be cleaning up with the charts tuned to their current wavelength. Songs are pushed & pinched into a perky sort of jig-synthesics that will snag you somewhere, line & sinker. Mic Woods has a tricky talent for scrambling dumbness into an intelligent sub-stance. Do not sidestep this tape!



SCHWARZWALDER KIRSCHTORTE

Each tapes are available from Rough Trade Mailorder, 202 Kensington Park Road, London W11 or direct from Reachout International Records, 611 Broadway, Suite 214, New York, NY 10012, USA



BAD BRAINS-"BAD BRAINS"

ROIR CASSETTES A106. C30

Bob Marley's punky reggae party becomes a reality! Remember the classic "I'm stranded" by The Saints, or those early Damned songs before they went psychedelically? Well, this tape makes them sound as if they were going at 33 1/3 instead of 78 rpm! The aggression of the band assaults the ears draining you of all energy—you just sit there exhausted by their heavy metal/punk/reggae excursions. With most of the tape recorded in the studio, the live tracks really show the band to their best advantage. I've only experienced this feeling a few times—please share it! You certainly will not regret the effort.

FLESHTONES-"BLAST OFF!"

ROIR CASSETTES A107. C30

Offbeat garage pop that lies somewhere between The Standells & The Shadows of Knight that has a style all its own. This certainly puts their recent IRS album "Roman Gods" in the shade! Recorded during their ill-fated 1978-79 stay with Marley Thau's Red Star Records (with whom they cut the incredible single "American Beat/Critical List" which should really be re-released) the tape shows the sparking tension between the band's amphetamine impulsiveness & the demands of the modern record market place. You can call it equilibrium; excitement is more like it!



THE GERMS-"GERMICIDE"

ROIR CASSETTES A108. C35

This was originally issued through Bomp Records back in 1977 & was 'produced' by Kim Fowley. Recorded live at The Whiskey, Hollywood, at the Germs first appearance, it is typical of those early punk/new wave bands with their kamakazi approach. Most of the music weeklies really castigated this tape for its 'unprofessional playing', but its that naivety that adds to its very charm. Obviously the crowd of onlookers at The Whiskey also didn't quite know just what to make of it either. Judging by the various comments it's well worth a listen.



THE STIMULATORS-"LOUD FAST RULES!"

ROIR CASSETTES A109. C50

Now this is more like it. The Stimulators are the reincarnation of 'The Damned' when they were at their peak back in the late 70's. Infact, Denise Mercedes the leading light & guitarist, once 'stepped out' with Rat Scabies—so the comparison isn't so strange after all. This fabulous slice of powerful pop only goes to prove that ROIR Tapes have done it again! Now the hell do they do it? Of particular note are "Facts", "100X before" & "Loud fast rules". Recorded live at The Pier, NYC, it's a real gem & as the title says—Loud fast Rules!



COLIN POTTER-"HERE"

MIRAGE TAPES M603

Available from Mirage Tapes, 614 Southmead Rd Filton, Bristol, BS12 7RF. £1.95 C60
From the tremendous opening number "Two feet on the ground" to the long extended "Gas" on side 2, the music bubbles & bursts with invention. Such is the sithering beauty of these songs that they charm as they stun. This tape is an essential soundtrack for lonely late night listening. Crank up the volume & switch out the lights. This is certainly a wonderful artifact. Danger—pop genius at work! Send for a list of other Mirage releases with a see.

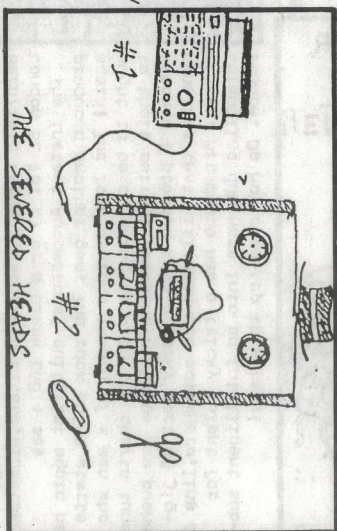


THE SEVERED HEADS-"MEDIA JINGLES No 3"

MUSIC FOR WIDGETS TAPES

Available from Frazier Nash, 40 Thompson Road, Langely Green, West Midlands. £1.30 or a blank C60 + see.

Licensed from Terse Tapes in Australia, it features the 'band' performing a collection of 4 track loops & edits. The liner notes state that "the monotony, funny speed changes & tape chewing are intentional"—it's certainly zany! They have done a very clever pastiche using various records, radio broadcasts etc to create an interesting sixty minutes. I believe that they also have three other tapes available: Ear bitten, Side 2/Clean from the same address mentioned above.



DEAN JOHNSON-"MIND ALLIES"

MIND RECORDS

Available from Lesley Johnson, Mind Records, Stonehearth, Roman Road, Prenton, Wirral, Mersey-side. £1.50 C40
Dean's first release on the newly formed Mind Records which is run by him & his wife. It continues the progression that has been charted throughout his Pear Record releases. This time, the tape LP is divided into three distinct sections: Suite love/Suite of hatred/Religion suite. Once again the music is superbly performed on acoustic guitars & the songs themselves are immaculate in both their content & performance. Highly recommended.



COLIN POTTER Here



VARIOUS-"ANGEL DELIGHT-A BLUE ANGEL SAMPLER"

BLUE ANGEL BASS 1

Available from Roger Moore, 7 Derwent Road, Fulford, York YO1 4HD. £1.99 C20
Eight magnificent pop classics that have an indefinable sound that is totally their own. It is possibly one of the most original bits of music to be released this year. Fun is the keyword—they just cajole the listener into being on their side. They are very instant, very much of the moment, with detectable traces & echoes of The Zombies & Madness. It is brilliant stuff. These people are the Blue Angel house band & judging by these tapes I eagerly await their next release. Watch out for them!



tape levy likely!

For those of you who may have been following the various developments concerning the BPI's (British Phonographic Industry) efforts to introduce a levy on blank cassettes, that we fully reported in our quarterly cassette review magazine "Stick It In Your Ear", there now comes some disquieting news. The Government is considering putting a levy on blank tape in an attempt to recoup 'the millions of pounds lost to the record industry by illegal home-taping'. The surprise announcement by Mr Ian Sproat, Trade Department Under-Secretary in the Commons on the 19th of last month (July), means the Government is having second thoughts about its Green Paper on copyright reform last year which rejected the notion of a levy. The reasons then given were that a levy would mean large price increases & would be "rough justice" for those not breaking the law. But Mr Sproat told the Commons that he was now taking the matter of home-taping very seriously, as seriously as video piracy. The Government wanted to act on both counts. He told Mr Michael Shersby (Conservative MP for Uxbridge) that the levy was just one of the suggestions being considered...

The BPI maintain that "technology has overtaken the law in the audio-visual field & chaos has resulted". The industry's representative body says that home-taping losses are now running at a staggering £305 million a year, & thus new copyright laws are needed because the present Act of Parliament was introduced in 1956 & they pointedly remark, that the cassette recorder hadn't been invented then! Not only that, they say, but new laws are needed to take into account more recent developments such as the compact disc, cable & satellite TV etc. The video industry also claim to be loosing somewhere between £100-200 million a year by insisting that 80% of video cassettes sold to the public are actually pirated!

A further worry is the introduction of record rental. They say that renting out LPs & singles has become a major business in Japan over the last few months, with the result that the Japanese record industry has lost 35% of its business.

Despite the increasingly desperate efforts of the recording industry to get some copyright laws onto the statute books, I hope that the amount of cold water dumped on the BPI's proposals in the Government Green Paper of 1981, makes the possibility of a home-taping levy being introduced most unlikely...but we, as users, cannot afford to get complacent in our attitudes, or the BPI will succeed in its aims, which will cost us dearly in the future....

Geoff Wall

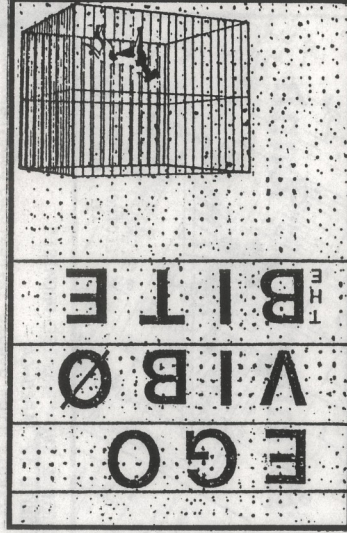
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SOUTHAMPTON SO2 8GU
HAMP. TEL: 440313

for the freebie
monthly news-
letters etc....
next mag due:
november¹⁸

VARIOUS-"PUNKS ANSWER 1st COMPILATION"
Available from 31 Daisy Close, Cotgrave,
Nottingham, NG12 3PL. blank C60 * 20p.

Recorded by punks for punks. Enthusiasm is more important than good sound balance, & quality (so this lot say). This features 3 bands: Split Personality, Vade in Pace, Disso Distro. They want to collate another C90 compilation with about 25 different bands so if you're interested get in touch with them at the above address. So if you happen to be a Rainbow/Exploited imitator producing some garage/bedroom demos etc, here's an outlet for you. They also require details about you for their fanzine. It's a great idea!



EGO...VIBO...THE BITE

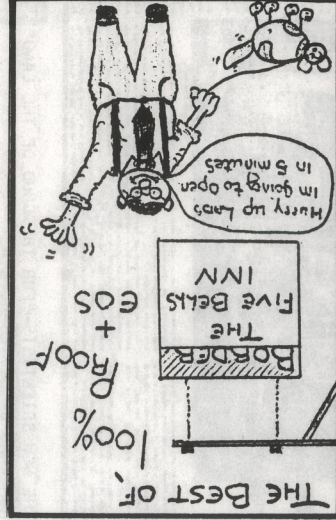
Available from Jan de Boever, Lunatique,
Zuidmoerstraat 89, 9900 Eeklo, Belgium. £2.

This excellent C60 features three Belgian bands. Ego is a trio playing 'new rock' that is quick & dynamic; The Bite are a superbly modern pop band that reminded me somewhat of Patti Smith's remarkable recordings. They also have their own fanzine (address on the tape liner); Vibø started as a punk band & evolved into the 'cold-wave' direction that is definitely my favourite thing on this remarkable cassette. The sound quality is also very good. Highly recommended stuff.

VARIOUS-"WOKE UP THIS MORNING, BOTH MY CARS WERE GONE"

MONITOR MUSIC MW/BT 1
Available from Mic Woods, 38 Barnfield Gdns,
Plumstead, London SE18. £1. C60

Lots of live recordings that seem to be under alias's-the names have been changed to protect the innocent! A little lacking in the quality department soundwise, but it may be due to the cheap tape used for my review copy. With excellent stuff from the Real Imitations, Instant Automations, Nib & his Replaceable Headz etc, & many many more. Well worth your looking out for with some interesting material included.



100% PROOF...ELEMENT OF SURPRISE-"BEST OF"
Available from Den Pugh, Flat 2, 16 Victoria Road, Oswestry, Shropshire. £1. C60

The 100% Proof side of this tape is a compilation of their material that was recorded between 1978-80 & features the duo performing experimental pop music with lots of electric guitar chords & frantic drumming. There is some interesting things to be found on this tape! It also features four tracks by a similar type of group called the Element of Surprise who can be best described as 'primitive popsters'. Strange cassette this...





ELECTROSOUND-"INCIDENTAL MUSIC, VOLUME 1"

Available from R.Curd, Electrosound Sound Products, 215 Iron Mill Lane, Grayford, Kent, DA1 4PF. £2.15 (also available from Rough Trade & Smart Distribution etc.).

You might not have noticed, but a new mainstream has forged out of a disparate clutch of pop imaginations. Take Numan, League & all the others as the starting point, & the spawn of the alliance grows huge. Most of their records are justifiably swallowed by a large dose of indifference—then along comes something like this. Wonderful tape! Now gogogo.

THE DADACOMPUTER

QUICK STAR/ MAP TAPES MAP 8
Available from Map Tapes, 14 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol 6. a blank C60 + see

On this tape Map is joined by Robert Lawrence (of Broken Pipes Exposed fame) & together they have produced an electronic pastiche of sounds & stories. The whole idea is given a certain clumsy grace by this very unlikely duo. An oblique conclusion offers a taut reply to the tape's intrinsic bafflement. The production tries to channel the weakness of this format into something more than just a cavalry gallop. Sometimes elbow grease is not enough. But, it's worth a listen anyway.

MAP8



PHILIP JOHNSON—"YELLOW"

Available from Philip Johnson, 5 Hollingbourne Road, Norris Green, Liverpool 11, L11 3AJ. C30

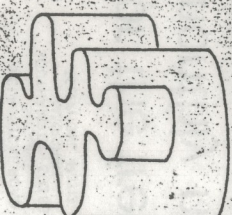
This belated review gives me a chance to express my admiration for Philip's past work as he seems to be entering a new phase on the vinyl medium as opposed to cassettes. Two extended pieces of electronic sounds that he originally recorded as a result of receiving an invitation to compose something for a Mail Art Show in Holland on the theme of yellow. Undoubtedly his best accomplished cassette ever technically that leads on to his vinyl career—"Doof" 10" LP on Nemedrop Records.

COLIN POTTER—"THE GHOST OFFICE"

MIRAGE TAPES
Available from Mirage Tapes, 614 Southmead Rd, Filton, Bristol BS12 7RF. £2.50 C D

An exercise in sustained hypnosis that should steam up windows across the metropolis. The way the ever-darkening beat is made to prowl & dance through swampy precincts is all engrossing; the teasing little dances threaten to implode. A skintight production & a host of unexpected interpolations grant a thousand-faced character that leaves you wanting & craving more. There's an ebb tide of vibrancy across this rock-away! beach. I remain really fascinated & have much more to say—but for now...the glow remains.

THE GHOST OFFICE



WHIRLWIND

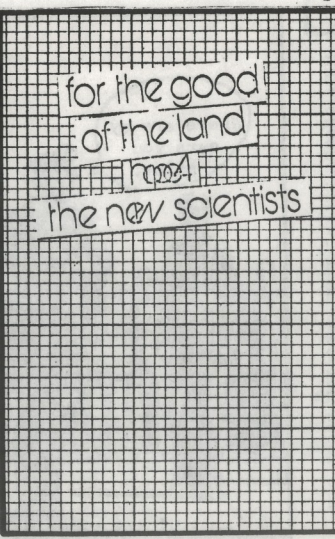
CODED INFORMATION SYSTEMS/LE REV TAPES
Available from John Murphy, 366 New Cross Rd, London SE14. £2 + see. C100

This retrospective cassette compilation from the Australian band "Whirlwind" is in the electronic vein with some strong similarities to our own, sadly defunct, "The Pop Group". Side one is home demo recordings made on a 4 track & side two was recorded live at the Crystal Ballroom, Melbourne. During their 1½ year existence their music & line-up varied greatly from electro-pop to TG industrial style sounds. It's certainly very interesting

THE NEW SCIENTISTS—"FOR THE GOOD OF THE LAND"

HOMELAND CASSETTES—HOPE 4
Available from Ian Hopwood, 147 Newport Road, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 0AJ. £2. C60

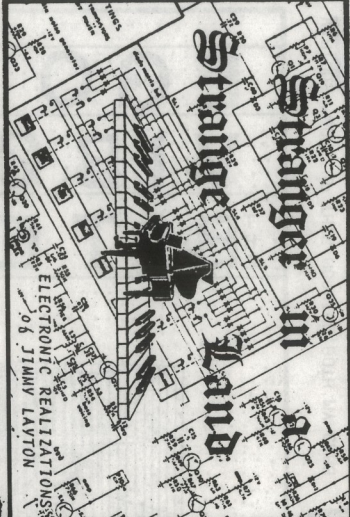
No contest. This knocks most of the rest into a cocked hat in terms of impact & proud intensity. The New Scientists are a thoroughly unlikely meeting of modes, mating the cool synthetic precision of their vocalist together with the refreshing new twist to the synthesiser bubble 'n' squeak. Their delightful debut on "Home of the brave" sampler (HOPE 1) hinted at their immense potential, but this is the first full-blooded exposition of their talent. Recommended.



JIMMY LAYTON—"STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND"

ZVX PRODUCTIONS
Available from Jimmy Layton, ZVX Productions, 494 29th Avenue #1, San Francisco, CA 94121, USA. C60.

Synthesiser motifs jostle & juggle. Here is a tape of great diversity, encompassing some classical stylings, jazzy improvisations, hot speed-out electronics, & if the broadsheet is to be believed, comedy, romance & intrigue! the gloss & the grit...it's turning out to be a great summer for excellent synthesiser tapes. Unmisical on the outside, but inwardly rich with references to many forms of musical styles. Please try & hear this cassette.



KARIN & IVO—"PROMISE PROMISE"

STUDIO 12 TAPES—C4
Available from Studio 12, Postbox 6358, Haarlem, Holland. C30.

Absolutely magnificent stuff! The saxophone coaxes out a trance-like tune with a soothing croon, peppered up by a frankly catchy base/ percussive backing that nobody could find oppressive or pretentious or anything like that. Really! Somebody please listen. If these songs sling their hook in your direction then believe it, you'll get hooked. It's energetic & delightful. They play, as in playful, in a way that's far from academic—worthy of enjoyment rather than reverence. Recommended.

