

MUSIC & ELSEWHERE NEWS: NEW YEAR '95

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Camberley
Surrey
GU16 5 TJ
UK

HI!!!

And a very
HAPPY NEW YEAR to
yas all! Shit, 1995.....
already??? What happened to
'94??? Where'd it go??? Is it just
me or is time really getting faster????
Whew, this last quarter has just gone whizz...
Old Father Time does speed, it's official! Wish the
guy would do barbs instead, we could all live a bit
longer then! Anyway, hope you all enjoyed whatever festivities
you chose to indulge in, hope them hangovers aren't too severe.

I think I'll be rather
glad to see the back of '94,
as it happens, it's one of those
years that's been memorable for all the
wrong reasons; another year of war in
Bosnia, the wonders of the Criminal
Justice Bill, the return of old style
Russian diplomacy in Chechnya, and much
closer to home, the loss of our Lulu.
Many thanks to all of you who've wished
her well, you brought a lot of smiles to
her face. You'll be pleased to know that

she and baby Thea are both doing quite well at the moment. Hey, I even got to feed
Thea a little while ago, a first time experience! Man, can them baby things suck!
I thought I was gonna lose the spoon! "Just put the whole spoon in her mouth,"
says Lulu, "she'll suck all the food off." Euh? There's just these two tiny lips,
I really couldn't imagine how I was ever going to get a whole spoon between them.
Then suddenly, this infinite cavity opens up and the food vanishes without trace.
Awesome. Black holes do exist after all. Even with the bottle, you're left in awe
of the power of nature. You put the teat in their mouth, then watch as the level
of the milk goes from full to empty in ten seconds flat. Whew. Be warned, don't
put your fingers near a baby's mouth, you'll lose it up to the elbow. No wonder
breast-feeding is out of vogue, I should imagine it's positively dangerous! Go in
with a 38DD, come out with a 32A. Oh, but it was a truly magical experience, I'd
recommend you borrow a baby from someone and try it yourselves.

Over to the right there, you'll see a facsimilie of the cover of the new
BEST OF CATTYLOG from us lot at MUSIC & ELSEWHERE. A 'cat' on a 'log', geddit???
It was the artist's idea, not mine! We thought we'd launch the New Year with a new
Catty Log, coz the old one was getting way too big to post, we were having to hire
pantechnicians to deliver them. This one is a literal "best of", just featuring all
the best selling titles on M&E, though nothing has been deleted and you can still
order anything from the old Catty Log too. All our regular supporters will have
got a copy with this newsletter, as they'll probably have noticed. Dead sharp are
M&E supporters. For all the rest of you out there, bands, zines, radioshow hosts etc etc, you'll get a copy automatically next
time you order something, pretty promise. Anyway, the reason I printed the cover over there is so I can say thanks to the guy who
designed and drew it for us, Roy Conolly. Ta, Roy. He sent us some of his work a little while ago and we were quite impressed, he
also has one of the finest heads of hair we've ever seen, but that's another story. He drew the picture of me (below left) too,
but missed out my baby blues, sulk. Roy's keen on doing more artwork for zines or bands, so if anyone can point him in the right
direction, do drop him a line at 26B North Crescent, Haverfordwest, Dyfed, SA61 2HZ, Cymru UK. Expect a very ornately decorated
envelope in the post soon afterwards. Works of art are his envelopes, trust me. Sure we'll be seeing more of Roy in the future.

Right, about this new MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME album; yeah, a lot of you keep saying "hey, looking forward to the
new album!" To which my reply is invariably "er...right...me too!" Well, with Lulu's recent departure, the picture (below left)
is now the entire remaining line-up...like just me. Magic Magics At Magic Magic. It strikes me as a bit silly to pretend the band
is still going, so let's face a bit of reality; it's all over, there is no more Magic Moments anymore. As it was, Lulu had already
said she didn't want to
take on everything on the new album, due to the then forthcoming demands of
motherhood, so I'd
already roped in some guest vocalists to help out, as well as a few musicians too,

coz I kinda missed having other muzos to play with. So now,
minus Lulu, it's more like a "Mick Magic & Friends" album.
Yeah, of course I'll finish it off, done far too much work
just to let it go. We've already had recording sessions with
Brian John Doran (Operattack), Inga Leru (Twister), Damien
Page (Hecate's Dreams), Sammi (our one) and more recently,
Fat Bloke (Double Trouble), who quite happily indulged in
Baked Beans Bubonique up there at Braindead Studios, with
compliments of the Egon Ronay of the studio world, Mark Bell.
Lulu has agreed to do the introduction to the album, it'll be
real nice to have her on it. And some news that I'm personally
quite thrilled about...Tracey Anne Sparkes, the amazingly
talented singer of BARRA, has accepted my invitation to do
the vocals on the last four tracks of the album! She has a
long way to travel for the sessions, all the way from County
Durham, so a bit of patience is in order here. All in all, I
hope the album will be ready for release by my birthday, 21st
April (all prezzies gratefully received), but it won't be
under the Magic Moments name, obviously. The title is "The
Spirit Of Darkness", it's a love story, hope you're gonna
like it. Oh, it's nothing to do with Satanism or anything
similar, the title is rather ambiguous, I know. Call it a
MMATT obituary, may they rest in peace. Here's to the future!



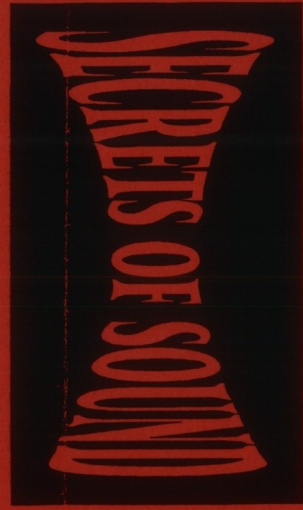
And now to our usual quick round up of what all those nice people have been writing about us over the last three months, starting with the fine German zine, MY WAY. Issue 32 was a special one, the first 100 copies including a free copy of the SECRETS OF SOUND EP we did in collaboration with SONS OF SELINA, THE ORIGINAL MIND BAND and FRANK'S DAD. Below is the two page article from MY WAY 32 that went with it, even including a cut out and copy special cover for the EP...if you were lucky enough to get one, that is. Editor, Uli Germand, sent us this with a nice letter, thanking us for letting him stay with us for a couple

Gebrauchsanweisung: Diese Seite auf dem Fotokopierer vergrößern (A4→A3). Vielleicht hat euer Copy Shop auch cooles farbiges Papier... Ausschneiden und zusammenkleben und fertig ist das Single-Cover.

hier kleben

Side A: SONS OF SELINA: Jam Tomorrow
ORIGINAL MIND BAND: E.S.P. - Don't Go Away
Side B: FRANK'S DAD: Sack It.
MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME: Blitzkrieg

Secrets Of Sound Records, 1993 - this edition comes with MY WAY # 32
MY WAY Fanzine, U. Germand, Finkenstr.8, 59192 Bergkamen, Germany

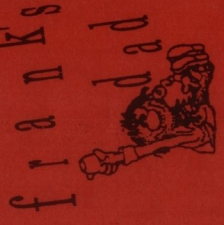


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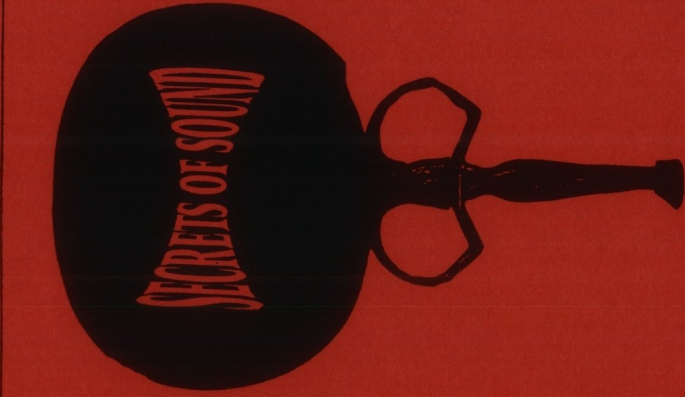
Keine "Secrets of Sound"-EP in diesem Exemplar?
Dann schnell bei Music & Elsewhere/Mick Magic
Für 10,-DM inkl. Porto bestellen!!



Die "Secrets Of Sound" EP hat kein offizielles Cover, immer gibt es aber nun den Originalentwurf by My Way/Overcast-Blagen. (Tel. Spide!)



contact: Frank's Dad,
14 Parc Frymon, Llysfaen,
Llwyn Bay, Clwyd,
LL29 8SA, England

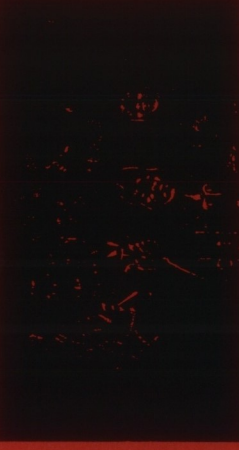


Band ist, erhielten wir mit dem Info ein Foto von Frank's Dad' beim Relaxen auf 'ner Parkbank. Es bleibt im Dunkeln, ob er eigentlich zur Band gehört. Der Song auf dieser EP ist die bisher einzige Veröffentlichung von Frank's Dad, eine poppige Indie-rocknummer mit leicht kamoltem Nachgeschmack. Im Info werden aber für die Zukunft eine LP, eine EP, zwei Singles und top-quality bestickte T-Shirts versprochen. Häääääääääh ?? contact: Frank's Dad,
14 Parc Frymon, Llysfaen,
Llwyn Bay, Clwyd,
LL29 8SA, England

das hervorragende Tape "Evolver" herausgebracht. Stellt euch vor, Meat Loaf würde bei den Frühen Jam singen, und sie würden dann die Kinks und Hawkwind gleichzeitig covern!
contact: Original Mind Band, PO Box 397, Swansea, SAZ 7YB, England



Die SONS OF SELINA dürften wohl durch ihr "Hour D'Out" Album auf Delirium Records bald bekannter werden. Deutlicher noch als die Original Mind Band verkörpern sie Musikern, die sich eigentlich immer feindlich gegenüber gestanden haben: Punk und Psychedelia. Kraftrotzender, melodischer Anarchpunk vermischt sich mit spaziger Hippiemusik, als wäre es das Natürliche auf der Welt. "Jam Tomorrow" auf der EP ist ein gutes Beispiel für den Sons Of Selina-Sound und zeigt, wie ungemein eingängig ihre Songs sein können. Weitere Ohrwürmer und Experimente befinden sich auch auf Singles und Tapes, die wiederum bei Music & Elsewhere zu haben sind. Und dabei haben diese Leute aus Wales keine Lust, als Persönlichkeiten in Rampenlicht zu stehen: "...wen stört überhaupt, ob unser Bassist Itallener ist und Ken Maynardia heißt, oder Ronald Scrotum aus Stockport ist?" heißt es in einem Brief, der unterzeichnet ist mit A. Miserablemannjngoldgit-

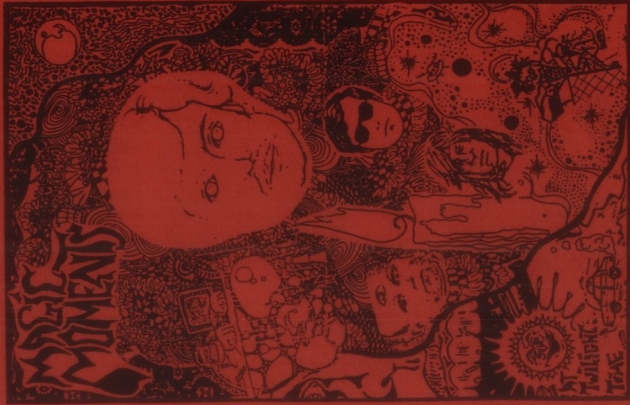


withmathgettertodeathewritelocks. No bitte!
contact: Sons Of Selina, 64 Ernest St., Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 2DW, England

FRANK'S DAD ist ebenfalls eine waliser Combo und besteht aus Al, Nick, Aid und Gumpah. Obwohl es eine



Willkommen zur "Secrets Of Sound" EP. Diese EP ist ein Produkt des Secrets Of Sound Labels der Sons Of Selina und versammelt vier Undergroundacts der aktuellen englischen Psych/Alternativszene.
Einen Teil der Auflage dieser EP konnte sich unser Chefredakteur Ulrich sichern, als er neulich Mick Magic in England besuchte.
Mick ist My Way Lesern natürlich kein Unbekannter und seine Band MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME ist hier mit dem Song "Blitzkrieg" vertreten. Dieser Song ist eine zynisch-ironische (Anti-)Kriegsnummer, wo poppiger Frauengesang auf Geballer und Bomben trifft und Billigbogeriffs vom Heurückdumcomputer angehrieben werden. Ein typisches Jonglieren mit Stilen, wie Herr Magic es liebt.
contact: Mick Magic, 6 Farm Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5LJ, England



Erdiger und rockiger gehen die ORIGINAL MIND BAND zur Sache. Obwohl der Liedname mit irngediner Zen Geschichte zu tun hat und sich die Herren hypotetische geben, liefert die Original Mind Band keine leichten Spinnrocklinge, sondern hartem Rock & Roll.
Die Band arbeitet sehr abwechslungsreich, mit ange-Jazzten Sachen und psychedelischen Aufzügen, ist aber stark geprägt von 70er Punkrock, Pubrock und Hardrock. Ihr Beitrag zur EP zeigt ihr Talent, druckvolle und kompakte Songs zu schreiben, die einfallreich und ziemlich zeitlos sind.
Neben einer selbstproduzierten Single hat die Original Mind Band bei Mick Magic's Music & Elsewhere Label

of weeks over the Summer. Our pleasure, Uli, it was great to get the chance to meet you. We love having visitors, it's always interesting to meet up with people you're in touch with regularly through the mail. Well, sadly, I can't tell you what else is in MY WAY 32, coz Uli only sent me xeroxes of those two sides. Obviously forgotten the combination to his purse again, do keep a note of it somewhere, Uli, makes life so much easier. Anyway, I'm sure it'll be a good issue, haven't seen a bad one of MY WAY yet. Oh yeah, Uli's doing a radioshow now too called BABEL, been playing some of our stuff too, nice man, there's a bit of the playlist underneath this article, which is much neater than those scrappy old ones Don Campau does, don't you think? Drop Uli a line for all the details of the show and the zine, you'll find him at Finkenstr. 8, 59192 Bergkamen, Germany, contact recommended!

- CONSPIRACY - Do or die
- MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME - Us
- RIFF + THE MAD HATTERS - Drifting
- B-SHOPS FOR THE POOR - Art will allow
- WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS - Love Your Enemies
- LEONID SOYBELMAN - Kalinka
- WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS
- CD Luft
- MC Rare Schellacks-München
- MC Sounds Of Pleasure
- MC Flashbax Vol.8
- CD Cellular Fishes...
- CD The Wild goose ch...
- CD Americanische Schnulzen
- Spectre Records
- Squeaky Shoes Rec.
- Trikont
- N.T.K.
- My Way-Tapes
- Stono

Off down under now, to the land of Australia. Well, in the last ish of the M&E Newsletter, we branded IGNITE as our "shitbags of the year", that was for buying Guilfin charity tapes from us at \$8.00 (Oz), then reselling

MMATT is looking for OZ bands to work with. Write to: 6 Farm Court, Farm Rd, Surrey GU16 5TJ, UK

ERRATA: In the last issue the GUILFIN tapes were listed at \$15 they are only \$10. Sorry!

them through their own newsletter at "the cost price of \$15.00"! Not the spirit, huh? Well, a little note appeared in their latest newsletter headed "Errata"...er...it's over there on the right...but it's a bit small, hope you can manage to read it okay. They are now reselling them at "the cost price of \$10.00". Bit of an improvement at least, coz \$15.00 is around £7.30! So we're now open to suggestions for who should really have the title of Shitbag Of The Year for '94, we're waiting to hear from ya! So sorry to Derek Garland of IGNITE, hope all the letter bombs you got as a result of my last article didn't cost you too many fingers. And I promised to write some nice things about you this time to make up for it, and to give you something to read in hospital, so here goes: IGNITE play a luvverly brand of doom grunge that turns your brain to jelly. Their newsletter is a fine little introduction into the underground scene down under, even tells you the coolest radioshow to tune into. They wrote that nice review of our 4th Guilfin Benefit Tape too. Ta, Derek, you've made me feel very guilty for calling you a shitbag now, I hope your fingers grow back very quickly. Anyway, contact can be made with Ignite (in easy-to-open packets, please) at 80 Bunarba Road, Gyemea Bay, NSW 2227, Australia, and say hi from us! I should have known it was a misprint really, the "5" and the "0" are only 80mm apart on the keyboard, easy mistake to make.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1994 DISCLAIMER ALL EVENTS LISTED IN GUILFIN ARE FICTITIOUS AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING LIVING OR DEAD. ANY SUGGESTIVE PHRASES OR INFORMATION IN GUILFIN IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE ACTED ON. AS ATTENDANCE (OR INTENTION TO ATTEND) AN EVENT, MAY CONSTITUTE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE. GUILFIN RECOMMENDS READERS REMAIN AT HOME (IF YOU HAVE ONE) AND WATCH TELEVISION. GUILFIN CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF READERS TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES AND FIGHT BACK.

Talking about GUILFIN, they did the little plug (below left) for the 4th Benefit Tape (MMATT 41). Ta. I just had to reprint that "disclaimer" from the December issue of GUILFIN too, found

GUILFIN 4
MMATT
Compilation

This tape is a collection of bands from all over the world who have all banded together to help the environment by a very special and dedicated person. The person in question is Mick Magic and he is a hard working punk who has a label called Magic Moment At Twilight Time. (M.M.A.T.T) It's a very rare treat to come into contact with someone who is willing to help others without asking for anything in return. I strongly recommend you drop him a line and encourage him. Get on his mailing list and support his label. He has hundreds of bands to choose from with many varying styles. This compilation tape stands as testimony to that. There is something on this tape to cater for the needs of even the most pickiest of music lovers. The tape features a couple of songs from each of the bands involved which is heaps better than most compilations, thus enabling a better representation of each band's style. Truly yours \$10.

GUILFIN BENEFIT TAPE A TAPE NUMBER 4 THAT MICK MAGIC HAS PUT TOGETHER AND PROBABLY THE BEST QUALITY MUSIC FROM LARGELY UNKNOWN BANDS. A GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF STYLES - INDIE, ROCK, PSYCHEDELIC AND A FEW ODDMENTS THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE. REPEATABLE TO: 6 FARM COURT FRIMLEY CAMBERLEY SURREY GU16 5TJ

it rather amusing! Somehow, I don't think the GUILFIN team are Conservative voters? Anyway, I finally got to meet up with them early December at a benefit gig just down the road from us at the Bisley Pavillion. "Come along and run an M&E stall, Magic," they said, "and make us lots of money." Well, being an extremely good cause, how could I refuse? A nice little ambient event was billed, featuring ultra groovy lights, the mighty ASTRALASIA, with worthy support from OPTIC EYE and PATH, and a fine night me and Sammi and Spliff had there too. We got to meet Thayen (who used to do art for 2000 A.D.), Sara (who makes some decidedly interesting hats and let me play with an

electric yo-yo) and Al (aka Snake, who does the reviews). Sadly, Liam couldn't be there, an early victim of the Criminal Justice Bill, languishing instead in a Polizei cell for the vile crime of not thinking fox hunting is cool. Shame on him, huh? Thayen assured me that Liam did not get arrested deliberately to avoid meeting me, which was nice to know. So if you live in the south east of England, do keep your eyes peeled for further GUILFIN benefit gigs, everybody had a great time at this one. The GUILFIN NEWSLETTER, detailing many interesting gigs and events, is free of charge, just send an SAE to them at P.O. Box 217, Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6FF, UK. Campaign contributions for "FREE THE GUILDFORD ONE (LIAM)", or towards the running costs of their excellent work in general, would be most welcome, cheques payable to GUILFIN.

I was also chatting with Thayen about them getting some M&E bands at their upcoming gigs, and it's looking promising for a SONS OF SELINA/KAVA KAVA gig in the New Year, that's gotta be an unmissable combination, and you can bet I'll be there too, but apart from that, it'll be great. Me and Sammi got to meet up with KAVA KAVA when we went to see them supporting the mighty PORCUPINE TREE at The Old Trout in Windsor. Excellent venue incidentally, recommend it to any band after a decent gig. KAVA KAVA are quite superb live, ultra tight sound. Pat's soulful voice never ceases to impress me, topping them wonderful funky psyche riffs of theirs, blistering guitar work and red hot bass runs from the little munchkin sized guy. They wear some highly amusing gear on stage too, raincoats, baggy trousers, bobble hats, sort of like train spotters on acid. Fantastic gig, catch 'em live whenever you get the chance, you won't regret it. And if you doubt how good they are, you obviously haven't bought their M&E tape, "Bdoing Phht!" (M&E 266), have you? Correct that immediately, it's brilliant. Great to meet Pat and the guys, look forward to seeing you all again at the GUILFIN GIG!

Some interesting people in the audience there too, like the members of the great psyche-blues band, DR. BROWN, been faves of mine for quite a while now. Hi Kev and co! This little meeting also jogged their memory about a certain live tape for M&E, so you'll find that in our new releases section, a few pages on from here. Also got to meet Richard Allen there, he of FREAKBEAT fame, and the man who had the inspiration to sign up KAVA KAVA, SONS OF SELINA and WOBBLE JAGGLE JIGGLE to his fine DELIRIUM label. I didn't really get much of a chance to talk to him, gigs are busy, specially when two Delerium bands were playing, but it was kinda nice to put a face to him after being in touch for so long. And we met his partner in crime too, Ivor Trueman, the quiet half of the team, I guess? Oh yeah, while I think of it, Richard sent us a CD soon after the gig. Now, we don't normally review anything apart from our own output or "proper" releases by M&E bands, but we're gonna make an exception here, coz this CD really blew us away, so here's an impromptu review, along with our thanks to Richard for a welcome addition to our music collection.....

***** BORIS & HIS BOLSHIE BALALAIKA - "PSYCHIC REVOLUTION" (DELERIUM RECORDS - DELEC CD 014 - DISTRIBUTED BY VITAL) *****

A guy playing an electric balalaika? Who are they trying to kid? Oh man, just don't try to imagine it, you'd be so wrong! This album is a psychedelic dream, trust me. The album opens with Boris' legendary anthem, "Toadstool Soup", which we reckon was about another fungi from the same family, actually, er...magic! Gong glids and Flying Teapot silliness, Hawkwind synths...and that phasey echo electric balalaika, yeah! It's a sound that's indescribable really, like Steve Hillage played a bit fast. This whole album is like a glowing tribute to the golden age of psyche (late 60s, early 70s, in my own humble opinion)...but psyche leadwork on a balalaika? Excellent. It could almost be guitar...almost! When it got to his cover of "Voodoo Chile"...our ears pricked up nervously...I mean, Sammi is a SERIOUS Hendrix fan, she'd have the death penalty brought back for people who play bad Hendrix covers...would she approve? Chick-a-chicka-chugga-chugga...it starts...oh wow...Sammi smiles! A wall of psyched out sound, Boris's bluesy soulful vocals, "nothing sacrilegious here," says Sammi, "Jimi would have loved this himself." Boris is a man of vision (yes, he's really Russian), he sees a free world, a peaceful world, a psychedelic world where magic mushrooms be the food of love, and this album made us want to paint our faces with dayglo and make for the nearest festie we could find. An inspirational album with far more than it's fair share of "feel-good factor", St.Boris, patron saint of psychedelia, we have a new hero, beg your local record shop to order you a copy immediately, or you can contact Delerium at P.O. Box 1288, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9YB, UK. Now where can I buy myself an electric balalaika? Richard Allen, we salute your taste!

Had a bit of recent feedback from a plug in MUSIC FROM THE EMPTY QUARTER, though we've not seen the relevant ish ourselves So we'll just take this opportunity to say thanks anyway and remind everyone that MPTEQ is a seriously good journal, well worthy of a read. Details from P.O. Box 87, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3HJ, UK. Just don't think we've forgotten THAT review though!

ZINE

Freedom Of Speech?

The great ZINE debate continues! Most of you will remember that in the Summer M&E NEWS, I reprinted the letter (right), along with an article heavily criticising THE ZINE for publishing it a couple of months earlier, with no form of editorial comment. When I first read it in THE ZINE, I was dumbstruck, I found it very

hard to believe that anyone could print it without comment. My argument was simple; any man out there that already has half an inclination to believe that provocatively dressed women are "asking for it" was gonna have their sick views positively reinforced by it. As you can see, it purports to be (anonymously) from a girl who had thoroughly enjoyed being raped twice before...and couldn't wait for it to happen again. Assuming the letter is genuine, the girl in question needs serious help, not exploiting for the sake of selling a few extra copies. Assuming it's a fake, some sick bastard has been given a chance to spread his own dangerous views. The message it gives is that that provocatively dressed girl you see walking in a "strange area" might just be the girl who wrote the letter, she might just be wanting to be raped, go ahead, man, you'd be doing her a favour, she wants to feel your "forceful stranger's penis"! Er...sorry? Have I missed something here? I had the idea that rape was a violent act, where the rapist beats and/or terrorises the victim into sexual acts. I had the idea that rape damages victims physically and leaves psychological scars that are unlikely to heal for the rest of their lives. I had the idea that rape victims were at risk of extreme violence, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, a death sentence via AIDS and a lifetime of nightmares. If they live, that is. The publication of this letter, without comment, has made it that much more dangerous for women to dress as they like and walk where they like. If just one woman is attacked as a result of it's publication, it's one too many. So should THE ZINE have done it? Is this really a question of "freedom of speech"?

My article about it got the biggest response of anything I've ever written, and all bar two agreed with me completely. Of the two that didn't agree, one argued that I was equally guilty to reprint the letter. I can't agree with that. Had THE ZINE added comments to it, explaining why they were publishing it and that what the girl in question needed was psychiatric help, not a third rape attack, then I would not have complained about it at all. I did a sizeable article to go with it expressing those sentiments. The other person that did not agree with me simply stated the "freedom of speech" argument. I can't agree with that either, a letter like that is too potentially dangerous to print alone. One reply that was missing at the time was that of THE ZINE itself, leading me to draw the conclusion that they simply didn't give a toss. I'm very pleased to say that a three page reply I received from them since proves this is not the case. I'm a firm believer in the right to reply, hence why I've dragged the subject up again, so I can pass on some of the more relevant things THE ZINE have had to say in their defence.

"The whole point of ZINE, as opposed to other underground publications or fanzines we've seen so far, is that the editors DON'T put anything in. ZINE is solely created by it's readers. It is against our principles to comment, favourably or otherwise, on any contributions. ZINE is simply offered as a platform to anyone who wants to take advantage of it. We've stated time after time that ZINE is an outlet for any opinions, it's created by the readers, not us."

Whatever, I still think that when publishing a letter that could endanger women, some form of editorial with it would have been wise. Their letter continues;

"Your concern about the rape letter highlights the real problem with free speech, it is also the freedom to annoy, offend and disturb. Yes, we debated long and hard about whether to print that letter. Personally, I (Cedric, co-editor) wasn't sure that it was genuine. However, we get hundreds of anonymous letters. Do we censor them, do we decide which is real according to whether it will offend anyone? This seems contrary to the principle of free speech. We do not need to apologise for any contributor's opinions." They add; "We nearly always have work-experience or temporary young helpers here, and we always ask their opinions, as we did over the rape letter. They unanimously agreed that it should be published."

I don't really think there is any real problem with freedom of speech. If it annoys people, so what? If people find ideas offensive or disturbing, that is more to do with the way they think than freedom of speech. I don't think this is a case of "freedom of speech" at all and I don't think it has anything to do with censorship. I am completely opposed to all forms of censorship. To me, the only thing that should be banned IS censorship! I'm not complaining about what they DID print, I'm only complaining about what they DIDN'T print with it. Freedom of speech, by definition, is the freedom to communicate views and ideas, and I am wholly in favour of that. A girl saying she enjoys being raped and wants to be attacked, however, is NOT a view, nor is it an idea, it is REALITY, and that's quite a different issue. Had that letter have been attributed to an anonymous male, saying that in his opinion, a provocatively dressed woman walking in a dubious area wanted to be raped, I wouldn't have said a word about it. His ideas would have been shot down in flames in the next issue. If, instead of being a letter, this had been a story about a girl who enjoyed being raped, same again, I would have had no complaints. So what's the difference? An idea, or a story, are NOT an actuality. If somebody's opinion or a work of fiction trigger a violent act in someone, then it is their choice alone, and nobody else can be held responsible for it. THEY have crossed the reality divide, and it is THEY who should be held accountable. But in the case of this letter, it is presented as reality, not just an idea, not a story. It is presented as a REAL girl out there, just waiting to be attacked. Therefore, should it trigger someone to perform a violent act, they would not have crossed the reality divide, because THE ZINE have presented it as reality, so some of the blame falls at their feet as well. An idea, view or opinion cannot hurt anyone, reality can.

Freedom is a complete concept, freedom should be afforded to EVERYONE, not just the speaker. What about the freedom of women NOT to be put in danger? I enjoy my freedom, but I accept totally that my freedom ends where another's begins. Ideas are intangibles, they cannot be quantified or measured, actualities can. THE ZINE have stated that they don't need to apologise for any contributor's opinions. I beg to differ. If they printed a letter stating the "opinion" that all black people should be beaten up and terrorised into leaving this country, I think they would find themselves apologising in a court of law. I don't always find myself agreeing with the law, but in this case it is spot on. An "opinion" like that is incitement to racial hatred and is rightly illegal. So, to me, it's not really an "opinion", it crosses the line into a reality. Would I really be "guilty" of censorship to refuse to publish a letter proclaiming that all black people should be beaten up and terrorised? I might be guilty of saving peoples lives and their sanity, I'd be happy to stand trial for that any day. Better that than me risk them being harmed so I could stand up for the principle of free speech! Back to THE ZINE's letter;

"If all those people who wrote to you were offended, why didn't they write to ZINE? We were sent a great number of letters ourselves, many of which we published. All were angry, and all but three congratulated us for being brave enough to print that letter. I've never believed that one article could ever change a person's outlook. There is no way that a single letter in a magazine could incite a person to commit rape. The only way, in my opinion, to change the way people think is to present reasoned discussion."

I would hardly call the printing of a letter by a seriously disturbed woman "reasoned discussion". The potential damage could be done long before the replies were printed in the next issue.

"To take your attitude further," their letter continues, "if you believe free speech should be censored to protect people, where do you draw the line?"

I think I've already made it clear that I don't think this is a question of free speech and I don't believe in censorship. THE ZINE then go on to test out my views on various examples of things they have published previously, as to whether or not I believe they were right to publish. I feel I should answer them, to be fair...

"Kill the racists...smash the BNP!" - Sentiments I can understand. Racists could maybe use a brain transplant, but if we really go around killing and smashing them, I don't think we'd be any more fit to run the world than they are. In truth, I think the word "kill" here is not used literally, so I'd say publish and be damned. It's quite easy to threaten to "kill" someone you are angry with, though there is no way you'd do it. I haven't read the whole article, so I can only go by the heading. What your average bigot needs more than anything is educating. Would you dislike a birthday present because of the wrapping paper?

WARNING THIS LETTER WILL OFFEND people who have been raped - it will offend most people. But The ZINE is a platform for anyone to show and say what they want. Dear ZINE Please, Please, Please Print this. Being raped was a turn on.

After being raped twice, I thought I'd put my view across in the ZINE as you say you print anything. The first time I was raped I was aged 22 and at the time my sex life was very good and varied but I never enjoyed it as much as the time I got raped. I don't know whether it was the feeling of being forced or knowing it was someone I didn't know. After the first incident I found myself walking in strange areas and wearing more provocative clothes. In a strange way I was hoping that I would feel another forceful stranger's penis inside me. It paid off because just over a year later I was raped again, it brought back all the wonderful memories flooding back, but this time it was even better than before and I'm longing for it to happen again. If anyone has views on this subject reply to The ZINE. ANON.

THE ZINE also cite an article by a homophobic teenager - again, I haven't seen the article, but so long as it doesn't incite harming homosexuals, I see no problem with it. They then go on to say that people have condoned the use of illegal drugs in THE ZINE - I have no problem with that either. Drugs are a moral issue, I don't think the law has any right to tell anybody what they can and can't do to their own body. They also said that one guy wrote in singing the praises of street-fighting - well, although I'd say the guy is probably a complete arsehole, it's really up to him. So long as he's only fighting other people who want to fight also, and not picking on people who don't want to know. If he's that keen on fighting though, why not take up boxing and keep it off the street?

Then THE ZINE go on to say how they published someone's advice on how to defraud the Social Security system by pretending to be disabled. Are they serious? Did they really have to ask? These people who would defraud the Social are lining their pockets at the expense of real disabled people, people who get precious little support from the state already, I hope they can sleep nights. To spread such information (and it IS information, not opinion) is beyond irresponsible, it is real shitbag stuff. I trust THE ZINE are suitably proud of upholding their fine tradition in this manner.

It gets better, they continue with;
"You ask wether we would print overt racist sentiments. OF COURSE WE WOULD."
See you in court, guys.

"But we would assume that those views would be shot down in flames in the next issue!"
Well, that makes it okay then, doesn't it? Let's just hope not too many black people get shot down in flames meanwhile.

Though I'm sure they would understand that they died for the finest of principles.

"I am really sorry if people have been offended, but Bo and I will always defend TRUE freedom of expression."
At ANY price?

It's a very complex issue, I know, but it's one I felt I couldn't leave alone, so I also felt I couldn't ignore THE ZINE'S reply. Though I still feel what they did was completely wrong, I'm now quite sure that they DO give a toss. The team at THE ZINE are obviously people who believe passionately in their cause, however misguided I may feel that cause is. Both me and THE ZINE would like to hear your opinions on this issue, obviously. Do you feel they are truly champions of freedom of speech? Or are they putting real people in danger for the sake of extra sales? You know where to find me, if you want to tell THE ZINE what you think you'll find them at Power Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 288, Shere, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 9JS, UK.

* *Music Elsewhere News*
Letter, Summer 1994 (c/o
Mick Magic, 6 Fern Court, Tarn
Road, GB-Frimley, Camberley,
Surrey GU16 5TJ, England
Wieder mal (den)beschriebene
Seiten mit Navigkeiten aus der
Indi-Szene-International. Wer
immer meint, das HZ sei schwie-
rig zu lesen, der soll mal so ei-
nen M & E vor Augen halten.
Aber die Folke an Infos ist überwäl-
tigen, und des Mick Magic selbst
ein guter Musiker / Again a
huge amount of information on
10 pages about the indie scene

Whew...well that was some hea-avy shit for straight after the festive season, huh? Okay, let us lighten up again with a trip to Germany. Fresh out of the postbox this morning (it's Thursday 29th December right now) is a couple of copies of the 36th ish of HAWKZINE, the really quite excellent HAWKWIND fanzine, including English summaries for us folks wot nein sprach Deutsche like. Significant issue too, for this is the 10th anniversary of the magazine, still battling away in spite of the best efforts of the Bundespost to bugger things up. So congrats to Dietrich Pless for keeping up his fine work from all of us here. Details from Dietrich at Schillerstr. 9, 65817 Eppstein, Germany. This is a free zine, so donations are most welcome.

HAWKWIND themselves never cease to amaze me. I mean, how many bands survive 25 years without compromising their ideas? I'm impressed, it's quite a feat. For UK readers, check out these two...
HAWKEYE: Adrian Parr, 2 Oxford Avenue, Wimbledon Chase, London, SW20 8LT, UK.
HAWKFAN: Brian Tawn, 27 Burdett Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 2PR, UK.
May they rock on for another 25 years; "In Search Of A Bus Pass!"

I hear there's a MMATT track on the compilation that went out with BIZARRE 5, so my thanks to Alex Novak for that one. BIZARRE is a pretty good little zine, covering a wide range of underground sounds, with a slight leaning to the dark side. Understandable when you consider that Alex is also the singer with THE VENUS FLY TRAP, huh? You'll find him at P.O. Box 210, Northampton, NN2 6AU, UK.

Another compilation we've turned up on is "Cassette Music Volume 5", released by PERSONAL SOUNDTRACKS, who also have our "Flashbax Volume 2" album in the UK, though I guess that's old news now! Some interesting music on this comp too, including Brume, The Rorschach Garden, Westland, M. Nomized and Factor X amongst others. Contact Dave Hopwood at 24 Woodstock Street, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 7DG, UK. Colour cover and all, he spoils you!

It's always quite exciting to make connections in a new country, it's a damned big world, so there's quite a few out there we haven't touched yet, and Japan was one of them. I'm now very pleased to say that we'll have a MMATT release on the GENDAI RECORDS label by the time this reaches you. The label is run by Japanese musician, Okaniwa Fumihiro, or Fumihiro Okaniwa, kinda depends on which letter you go by, and this all came about via my connection with THE ROTTON KIDZ. It's a band, sort of, but there are around 2,000 members in it, worldwide. Creator, David Bohatyretz (aka Zalnikor), invited me to join around a year ago, which I did, coz LORD LITTER was already a member (the Germans beat us to everything, don't they?)...right. David started this up around 1969, which I guess must make it the oldest institution in the underground network (unless you know different)? Yes, David calls himself Zalnikor, you simply HAVE to have a silly RK name, it's a must. I refused, claiming that Mick Magic was quite silly enough anyway. So it turns out that Okaniwa is also a member of the band, under the name of Penpen Grass. I'm not making this up, I promise you! Anyway, that's how he came to find us...via a Canadian based co-operative. Maybe it's not such a damned big world after all, huh? MMATT's "Flashbax Volume 1" is now available from GENDAI at 3-30-3 Senzoku, Taitou-Ku, Tokyo 111, Japan. Thanks, Zalnikor! Incidentally, Okaniwa makes some pretty wild sounds himself, so say hi from us.

One more new "Flashbax" release to tell you about, which will be happening early in the New Year, soon as I've had time to send off the master. This is our second release in Greece, this one courtesy of something I can't type, coz it's in Greek, but I think it would be PERIODIKO VROMIA in English. This is mainly a zine, but they release a few tapes too, and they're well into the underground DIY spirit. Can't tell yas much more yet as I haven't seen a copy so far, so watch this space. The man to contact is Chrysostomidis Chrysostomos (honest), P.O. Box 9, 502 00 Ptolemaida, Greece. And do try not to mention the World Cup, okay? To date, Chrys holds our record for the slowest reply, 8 months, so our congratulations to him on that one. Probably takes him that long to write his name though, so we'll be understanding about it. Thanks for your (eventual) support, Chrys!

Oh yeah, nearly forgot me and Sammi's trip up to Blackpool a couple of months ago. Hey, what can I say, we couldn't afford Tenerife this year! Whenever we're up that way, we always pay our old mate Stan a visit. I don't know why, he's done nothing to us. Stan, of course, runs the PUMF label, makes music as HOWL IN THE TYPEWRITER (amongst other things), used to be one of THE MEMBRANES and is a fine host to boot. We actually got to meet the lovely lady he lives with this time too. Er...bugger, her name has gone again, let's call her Thingy. Thanks for all the food and tea, Stan and Thingy, sorry we made your house smell of smoke, honest. Stan's actually quite a character. If he was rich, they'd call him "eccentric". But he's not, so we call him a fruitbat. He has this seriously long hair with lots of coloured wool platted into it, certainly sticks out in Blackpool, I can tell ya. "So how do you wash it?" I asked innocently, "Two parts shampoo to one part fabric conditioner?" Well, I thought I was being amusing. Then he tells me he doesn't wash it. Yeuk. Hasn't washed it for five years since he first put wool into it. "But doesn't it get all itchy and greasy and smelly?" I inquired. "No," said Stan. "Yes," said Thingy, "he smells like a mouldy wet sheep when it rains." Oh, the joys of romance. Fortunately, it didn't rain that day. And in spite of the fact that me and Sammi were scratching our heads for days just thinking about it, it was great to see him again. Oh, and very nice to meet Thingy too. You can contact Stan, send shampoo, ask about the MMATT "Designer Brain Damage" cassette on PUMF, whatever at 130 Common Edge Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4 5AZ, UK. PUMF are sponsored by Vidal Sassoon.

And just enough space here to sing the praises of Paula & Ernie Clark, those caring scould who run the HOPEFIELD ANIMAL SANCTUARY. Winter is a particularly tough season on them, they have hundreds of animals to feed and keep warm, animals they've saved from all forms of cruelty and neglect, and it all costs money. If you have lots of money, you can sponsor an animal, if you don't, you can still adopt one. Any contributions are most welcome, and they can always use a hand with the workload too. You'll find them via 697a Green Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1UU, UK. If you can be of any help at all, I know Paula and Ernie would be very pleased to hear from you. THE HOPEFIELD ANIMAL SANCTUARY is a registered charity and the money really DOES go to the animals

6 M&E NEW RELEASES !!

* - a pretty damned good tape
** - a bloody good tape, special
*** - fucking excellent stuff!

SHO-02 (90 ***) VARIOUS ARTISTS - M&E SHOWCASE VOLUME 2

And this has to be quite the best place to start, the tape that allows you to check out all the new stuff in one go. Featuring music from new releases by 4Q, The Original Mind Band, Dr. Brown, The Folkoffs, Otherworld, Sabotage, Alphane Moon, L.G. Mair Jr. and Toshiyuki Hiraoka & Okaniwa Fumihiro. PLUS some other little gems...hear Sons Of Selina as you've never heard them before... very drunk and performing Joe Dolce's "Shaddup You Face" (and we hope you appreciate it, coz they're gonna kill us when they find out!), Steve Andrews & The Conspiracy do a track from their split tape "Hyena", then ya gets Ian Merrick, former bass player with gothic punksters, The Charles, performing "I Wanna Be Like You" from "Jungle Book"...trust me, we don't make this up! PLUS tracks from Space Toad and Refuge Monument, and a chance to hear the beginnings of a piece by Blaine Jones of Communication Union, which incorporates opera into the world of electronic music. 15 artists for the price of one, can't knock it, can ya? Recommended!

M&E 281 (50 **) GRASS HARP - ARENA

From Braunschweig in Germany, here comes a really powerful gothic rock band that'll be a big hit with fans of Into The Abyss. A big sound here, filled with hints of psyche and progressive, as well as that ornate gothic guitar sound and crystal lead. Very tight and pro sound. I guess The Mission comparison is inevitable, but the band suprised me, I could even hear shades of The Blue Oyster Cult and Greenslade tucked away in there somewhere. Side 2 goes live, excellent recording too, journeying through gothic swamp rock, like Wayne Hussey jamming with Ry Cooder, grunge guitar and a manic climax to finish. Fine album indeed.

M&E 282 (60 ***) SABOTAGE - MASCHINENSTURM

My fave elektroidanz band in the whole world offer their 3rd release on M&E, even though they've been a signed band back home in Germany for quite some time now. This band just get better and better, they make dance music an art, instead of the cheap commercialistic crap it often turns into. The album opens with a strangely experimental piece of neo-classical atmospherics, all elektroid sound hits and synthetic strings, like Ultravox on acid. Then onto the danzbeats, classy synths and FX, great grunge guitar samples effectively used, and Isabelle Gernand's distinctive voice gliding over the top. Journey on through Dark Star spacedanz, inspired bass sequencers, Giorgio Moroder and a gutsier Erasure. Then just when ya think ya know what's coming...try Johnny Rotten punk technodance for size, Marc and Detlef getting the chance to air their tonsils. Then one of them breathy femme fatale numbers with arty whispers in the background, feel the hairs on your neck stand on end. And there's an elektrodanz version of "Come Together" that you simply won't believe. A fantastic blend of dance, electronic and pure experimental creativity...whew!

M&E 283 (60 *) 4Q - THE VERY BREAST OF 4Q

Now here's a potential best seller. HUH? Yeah, seriously, you'll understand why before too long. 4Q were a punk rock band from Rhyl in north Wales from the late '80s. One member, a certain Neil Crud, was also responsible for the anarchic punk zine, CRUD. So what? Well, by 1990, 4Q had been banned from everywhere and anywhere, so it all came to an end. Neil Crud, along with two other members of the band (wait for it)...went on to form SONS OF SELINA! Yes, we have here, specially for you, THE SECRET HISTORY OF SONS OF SELINA!!! Pure punk, from high speed Pistols style through to the chunky guitars and psycho style lead that later became SOS trademarks. Shades of the Anti Nowhere League, classic vocals by Cumi Pants (honest!), punk ska...and it's all done in the worst possible taste! Check out songs about VD, killing The Beatles (well, the rest of it is bad taste), poo on my shoe, shit sticks like superglue! Personally, I think Neil is a damned good sport to let us release this, and I feel very guilty about "Shaddup Ya Face" now. But at least I didn't mention their drunken version of "The Floral Dance", did I? This is a really fascinating bit of M&E's top band's past, a must for every collection, and it's incredible how many bits will show you what's to come. Right, so spike up your hair, stick safety pins through your ears and prepare to mosh! A classic!

M&E 284 (50 *)/M&E 285 (60) TOSHIYUKI HIRAOKA & OKANIWA FUMIHIRO - VOLUMES 1 & 2

Two collaborations here from a pair of Japan's best known underground musicians. Volume 1 is, I think, the best of the two, though there's not really that much between them. The music is very strange and very inventive, like take a house beat, add a distorted bass, avant garde guitar licks, squelches of noise and all manner of weirdness...and that's just one "track". On through tinkly jungle rhythms, backward guitars, danced up Can beats, distorted vocals, dry synth pulses. Right. Quite Germanic in feel, many bits reminding me of those Deutsche mighties, Can and Faust. I wouldn't listen to this through headphones on acid, trust me!

M&E 286 (60 **) L.G. MAIR JR. - THE PLUTONIAN VORTEX

New York's L.G. Mair Jr is hardly unknown to regular M&E supporters, we've put out a couple of his albums before, sort of jazzy funky electronic ones. But this one is a quantum leap from his usual material, and I personally prefer it. This is megasonic warblings, like those luvverly Hawkwind intros with hints of Edgar Froese (them Germans get everywhere, huh?) and swirls of solar winds, whirling pitches and oscillator overdrive. It's like listening to launch noises from "Forbidden Planet", the perfect sci fi movie soundtrack. Ambient electronics, like in the early works ("Zeit" etc) of Tangerine Dream, with tons of delay and FX. LG put away the digital FM gear for this album too, this is an analogue dream, created on a Moog Sonic 6, synth purists' heaven. The second side adds a nice bass sequencer and I'm in my element, add elektroid sounds that'll make you think your brain is tearing, yeah! Very ornate, very Tangerine Dream in places, very analogue, very good. Hope LG will be doing some more work like this.

M&E 287 (60 *) ALPHANE MOON - THE ECHOING GROOVE

And here's a brand new band to the underground, hailing from Lampeter in Wales, and soon to be starting a psychedelic zine of the same name. They've put quite a unique blend of influences together here, the result is a pleasure to listen to. Ambient glids, like Gong and early Hawkwind intros, swishy winds and echoed monastic vocals. Then it builds...multi layered echo guitar, great use of stereo imagery there too, ambient deep space. Synth FX flicker, mellow "In Search Of Space", shades of Floyd's "Dark Side", Tangerine Dreams "Rubycon" era...just shades, elements, the sum of which just sounds like Alphane Moon. Ambient space folk??? Er.. I don't really know what to call it, but pigeonholes are for pigeons, right? Wrong, they're for mail actually. Fine stuff.

M&E 288 (60 **) OTHERWORLD - MESSAGES

Now this has to be my personal favourite of this batch of releases, simply enchanting. I don't know why the mega talented Clare Durrant hides behind a band name, there's nothing to hide from, this is really inspired stuff, trust me. Still, I've "outed" her now, so you know who gets the credit for this album! A spacey synth pulse intro breaks into grungy guitars with a Hazel O'Connor gothic punk vocal over the top...then it goes all psychedelic and the guitars sparkle...then Clare's vocals drift up to operatic range...and I sat there gobsmacked...this wasn't what I was expecting at all, going by the earlier demos. A space gothic grunge candidate for lysergic enhancement??? Then comes the second track...and now we're into Kate Bush territory. Flittering stylised vocals top ticking clocks, funny whirry noises and a quirky little beat that wouldn't be out of place on a Cardiacs album. Two ends of the spectrum in as many tracks, so where next? India? HUH??? Yup, Ambient Indian dancebeat, complete with flute and violin, oh this would go down a treat at festies, kinda like Astralasia, but softer. A nice blend of Indian tabla drums and synth noises suddenly cuts to an Ozo type reggae beat (remember "Kites"?) and Clare soars high with an appropriately Eastern vocal. This young lady has some serious ability. And she wrote it all too. Next track, her voice goes deep and rich, hovering down below the sitars. Imagination, creativity, vocals from all ends of the scale, clever use of Indian samples, dum dum bass, echo guitar, mellow psychedance, shades of Danielle Dax, and all the way back to psycherock with Hawkwind synths and gothic spacepunk. Clare, we salute you and we're counting the days to your next album already. Hope we haven't made you blush too much! Excellent album.

M&E 289 (90 **) SWEET WILLIAM - DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

One of Germany's finest underground gothic rock bands here, and an album that charts their progress over the time they've been together, which I believe is around eight years now. Thumping drums, deep dark bass and vocals to match, sharp distorted guitar, not dissimilar to The Venus Fly Trap in some respects. Doom laden stuff, dark like The Flowers Of Romance, The Mission with psyched out lead guitar, vocals by Dave Vanian on barbs! Inventive touches like use of a string quartet to close one track. Very stylish and varied collection is this, even to the point of getting walls of echoed backward guitars, hardly a typical gothic hallmark, huh? And a drum solo! This band aren't afraid of doing epics, and that adventurous spirit pays off in full. Odd noises there, sounds like a heavily effected saxophone? Some nice wah wah space guitar too, whew, this gets real weird in places. It's always a pleasure to hear a band that expand on a formula. This is the kind of album that'll keep gruffies extremely happy, while maybe pulling a few more Luke Skywalker's over to the dark side. Sweet William have come a long way from their roots, rock on!

M&E 290 (30 **) REVENGE OF NEPHTHYS - UNTITLED

Believe it or not, another gothic rock band from Braunschweig in Germany! The intro begins, ah, sweet melodramatic, birdsong, panic and screams...enter that big gothic sound, walking dark vocals, the gothic guitars, the sheer gloom of it all. But again, a band with some unusual elements which make them real M&E fare. They remind me in some ways of the dramatic era of David Bowie, circa "The Man Who Sold The World" album, rock sound, powerful vocals, atmospheric bass lines, haunting dark themes. You even get a touch from the electronic world in there sometimes, synth brass and symphonics, like the plaintive anthems of Talk Talk and Ultravox, and some superb bass work, fretless, I think. I'll say no more, the album speaks for itself, a must for gruffies.

M&E 291 (46 **) THE FOLKOFFS - RIVER OF MOLTEN CHEESE

These days, Kevyn Dymond sits in the California sunshine, plays in a transvestite (I have the photos, trust me) band called Barking Dogma, runs the Guaranteed Cleveland label, produces a nifty little zine called Anemic Billfold and plays me at postal chess. Bastard's a pawn up at the moment. Sulk. The Folkoffs go back a year or two now, but are still ever popular, and when Kevyn saw their previous album, "Godzilla Meets The Housemaid", back in the M&E charts last quarter, he figured we were long overdue for the sequel. This is West Coast music at it's finest, a wavering flute introduces the proceedings, Jethro Tull meets Frank Zappa in Baywatch, flowing harmonic underground rock with a California feel, dead smooth and some fine quality musicianship to boot, memories of The Association, tongue firmly in cheek. Little backward messages between the tracks too, but it's likely just Satan telling you to hang yourself. Nice songs about chemical pollution, delivered with the innocent style of Johnathan Richman & The Modern Lovers, neat guitar solos and West Coast harmonies, clever stuff indeed. Through rolling jazzy rock, back to Tull and Zappa, and on to Latin rock, complete with Santana lead breaks. An accomplished work indeed. Can I have my pawn back now?

M&E 292 (50 ***) DR. BROWN - LIVE AT HEBDEN BRIDGE

I guess if you live anywhere in Europe, you'll know who this lot are. A bit big for the underground really, so we appreciate getting our grubby little mitts on this gem all the more. Nice one, Kev. This band have to be one of the best psyche blues rock bands in the galaxy, even had such luminaries as H*w L**d L**g**n playing with them in the past, but they don't like to talk about it! Lots of echoed guitar leads into dub bass and a song singing the "praises" of Jack Daniels, who happens to be a mate of mine too, as it happens. Hendrix fans will love this album, maybe Deep Purple fans too. Kev really does sound like Hendrix at times, that same kinda soulful bluesy voice, and they sound dead good live, make a point of catching them next time they tour. From funky psyche in the vein of the mighty Kava Kava, through The Stranglers jamming with Hendrix and H**kw**d, the take you on a roller coaster ride of psychedelic blues. Sharp riffs, psyched out guitar work, full bass lines (and on only his second gig, bless 'im), reverbed harmonica and a touch of psycheskank. You even get a protest song about marshmallows and chocolate whipping cream. Well, these issues are too serious to ignore, right? This is music to get seriously stoned to, trust me. Superb. We had to beg for this album, and it was well worth it, add this to your Dr. Brown collection immediately. Available on prescription, natch.

M&E 293 (60 *) THE ORIGINAL MIND BAND - ECLECTIC WARRIOR

At last! The long awaited follow up to their last M&E album, "Evolver", one that is right up there amongst our best sellers, an all time best seller of all time there, matey. Soundwise, they've moved on a way, captured here live. You open the set with lots of quirky little riffs, like that psyche head music they always had playing at parties in 1972. Ooh, that riff sounded like "Race With The Devil", I liked that. There's a kind of Zappa/Beeheart strangeness to what they do now, but still the familiar Captain Pugwash beat I hear, they've definately carved out their own little niche, methinks. And party on through psychedelic Arabian dances, echoed guitar flits and frantic spacepunk like Hawkwind's Charisma years...then they sound like The Monkees for a mo... a touch of psyche reggae, phase echo guitar, Hawkwind again, complex and imaginative tunes...Horslips, yeah, that's who they remind me of sometimes. Cardiacesque touches, singer sounds like Ian Anderson (Tull) at times, ooh...an anti-Tory song, hope they don't upset that nice Mr. Major. Then a stomping live version of "Dance Of The Dirty Deeds", and I can't believe the drummer's arms didn't fall off during that one...and a classic to finish, "The Strange Case Of Mr. Remes", beam me up, Scotty!

MUSIC & ELSEWHERE ** SHOWCASE SPECIALS ** MUSIC & ELSEWHERE **

SHO-03 (90 ***) VARIOUS ARTISTS - BETTER THINGS ARE ELECTRIC

A sampler album of the best of the electronic music on the M&E label. Instrumental EM of a great variety of styles, featuring music from M&E releases by Qubais Reed Ghazala, Communication Union, The Kitchen, Leviathan, Cristian Vogel, Invisible Universe, Endzeitgeneration, L.G.Mair Jr., Paracon, Emmellar, Magic Moments At Twilight Time, Dark Star and Nomzic. It's good, trust me.

SHO-04 (90 ***) VARIOUS ARTISTS - ALL THINGS DARK AND BEAUTIFUL

A sampler of music with a strong gothic influence from the M&E Catty Log, come to the dark side! Featuring music from M&E releases by Grass Harp, Sweet William, Revenge Of Nephthys, Into The Abyss, The Charles, Siela, Flowers Of Sacrifice, Flowers Of Romance, Venus Fly Trap, Religious Vision, Fiends Of Zacharia, The Radiance, Evasion On Stake and Kiss The Blade. Lights out!

The Best Sellers Chart ... Fall '94

- 01 (---) VARIOUS ARTISTS - LIFE, THE UNDERGROUND & EVERYTHING (MMATT 42)...the ultimate underground compilation!
- 02 (---) The Thamesmead Rollers - Too Old To Rock (M&E 272)...the old farts from Hell are riding high again!
- 03 (---) Various Artists - M&E Showcase Volume 1 (SHO 01)...the first of what looks like being a popular series.
- 04 (---) Disc - 1.0 (M&E 279)...one of the most stylish spacerock albums around, a sound all their own.
- 05 (---) Sigis Bruder - Leftovers (M&E 278)...put simply, it's a masterpiece, most creative album I've heard.
- 06 (---) B.D.F. - Bild Der Frau (M&E 277)...quaint little album from a female duet from Austria, love it.
- 07 (---) Stormclouds - Psychotronic (M&E 125)...the kings of psyche kitsche return to the charts once more.
- 08 (01) Various Artists - The 4th Guilfin Benefit Tape (MMATT 41)...the latest in a great series of compilations.
- 09 (07) Sons Of Selina - The Dilemma Sessions (M&E 158)...the ever popular Welsh space rockers experimental one.
- 10 (09) Barra - The Mini Album (M&E 258)...the best album on M&E, with the golden voice of Ms. Sparkes.
- 11 (21) Lord Litter - Torn Between Temptations (M&E 012)...classic album from a classic guy, what can I say?
- 12 (05) Sons Of Selina - Paradise Mile (M&E 250)...them spacerockers from Rhyl doing what they do best. Brill!
- 13 (---) The Venus Fly Trap - Rinascita (M&E 273)...a superb best of from the dark side, gothic rock with imagination.
- 14 (08) Magic Moments At Twilight Time - White Hawk Atomic (MMATT 34)...the live spacerock extravaganza from Alpha Nebuli IV.
- ** (---) The Invisible Band - Occam's Razor (M&E 164)...lively psyche instrumental in the vein of Steve Hillage plus.
- ** (11) Various Artists - The 3rd Guilfin Benefit Tape (MMATT 40)...the previous one from the series, obviously.
- ** (---) Various Artists - The 2nd Guilfin Benefit Tape (MMATT 38)...well, there was this Guilfin benefit gig, ok?
- ** (---) Lord Litter - In The Afterglow (M&E 270)...the latest album from the king of the underground.
- 19 (03) Wobble Juggle Juggle - Fresh Today (M&E 112)...the very first tape from Brighton's bluesy fun psychesters.
- 20 (---) Various Artists etc! - Don Campau & Kevyn Dymond In Europe: Oct/Nov '91 (M&E 243)...underground travelogue plus!

** = 5 titles tied for 14th place, that's gotta be a record, huh? And a sad moment for us; after three years, our "White Hawk Atomic" falls out of the Top 10 for the first time. Sulk. Sob. Whimper. And those geriatric grunge merchants, The Thamesmead Rollers, go flying in at near top again. Hmmp. Bollocks. Still, our "Life, The Underground & Everything" compilation kept them off no.1 this time. Snigger. Had a feeling that one would be popular, where else can you get 180 minutes of music for a fiver!? Some hot new bands up at the top there too, like Disc, a really good spacey psyche band with a few unique angles, like spaceska! Then Sigis Bruder, featuring the enormously talented Sigi E on vocals, fine and inventive stuff indeed. And BDF, kitsche and amusing with it. Now we're gonna be looking forward to more releases by all of that lot. Looks like there's been a Stormclouds revival too, great to see "Psychotronic" riding high again. Oh yeah, while I remember, a most important note...both our WOBBLE JUGGLE JUGGLE tapes ("Fresh Today" and "What") are only available until May, after which they'll be withdrawn at the band's request, watch the M&E News for announcements of new music by the band. But anyway, if you haven't got copies of those early masterpieces yet, you only have four months, so get yer orders in now! All MMATT/M&E tapes are £3.50, payable to SJ Taylor, the "Life, The Underground & Everything" set is two tapes for only £5.00, the perfect introduction to our Catty Log and beyond. The Fall '94 charts cover sales from 1st October to 31st December. And now, on to the biggie charts, the best sellers of 1994.....

8 £ THE BEST SELLERS OF 1994! ££\$£\$£££££

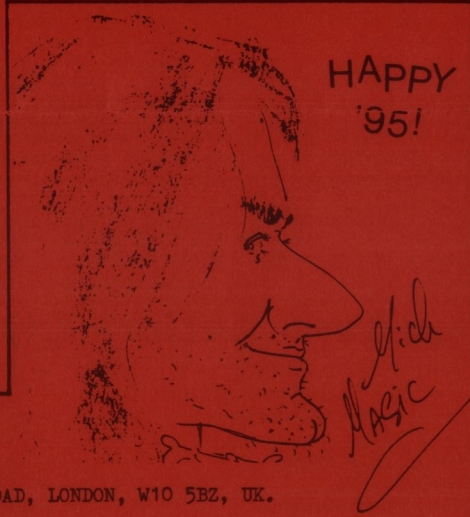
THE BEST SELLING TAPES OF 1994 *** THE BEST SELLING TAPES OF 1994

No.	(93)	(92)	Artist	Title	Code
01	43	—	SONS OF SELINA	- PARADISE MILE (M&E 250)	
02	02	05	Sons Of Selina	- Ambition (M&E 054)	
03	08	16	Wobble Jaggle Jiggle	- What? (M&E 075)	
04	19	—	Sons Of Selina	- The Dilemma Sessions (M&E 158)	
05	06	—	Wobble Jaggle Jiggle	- Fresh Today (M&E 112)	
06	—	—	Kava Kava	- Bdoing Phhht (M&E 266)	
07	—	—	Barra	- The Mini Album (M&E 258)	
08	01	01	Magic Moments At Twilight Time	- White Hawk Atomic (MMATT 34)	
09	—	—	The Thamesmead Rollers	- The Early Years (M&E 252)	
10	—	—	The Thamesmead Rollers	- Too Old To Rock (M&E 272)	
11	24	—	The Witches	- The Witches (M&E 214)	
12	—	—	Disc	- 1.0 (M&E 279)	
13	42	—	Dark Star	- States Of Mind (M&E 151)	
14	—	—	Alien Planetscapes	- Celestial Dance Hits (M&E 253)	
15	09	—	The Invisible Band	- Occam's Razor (M&E 164)	
16	03	13	Stormclouds	- Psychotronic (M&E 125)	
17	—	—	Sigis Bruder	- Leftovers (M&E 278)	
18	29	—	Animal Factory	- Animal Factory (M&E 223)	
19	—	—	Hecate's Dreams	- Rape Of The Fly (M&E 256)	
20	25	—	Into The Abyss	- Martyrium (M&E 202)	
21	04	02	Magic Moments At Twilight Time	- Psychotron 0 (MMATT 20)	
22	—	—	Cosmic Dance Society	- Dilemma & The King Of Thing (M&E 257)	
23	13	—	The Original Mind Band	- Evolver (M&E 175)	
24	—	—	Schmertz Der Welten	- Schmertz Magic (M&E 176)	
25	—	—	B.D.F.	- Bild Der Frau (M&E 277)	
26	20	29	Lord Litter	- Torn Between Temptations (M&E 012)	
27	07	03	Magic Moments At Twilight Time	- Zoen Nostalgia II Earthbound (MMATT 33)	
28	—	—	Dark Star	- No Sign Of Intelligent Life (M&E 152)	
29	14	—	Cyborg Sex Babies	- Dead Friend (M&E 126)	
30	—	—	The Rorschach Garden	- Rain Culture (M&E 255)	
31	23	23	Lord Litter	- Space Age (M&E 070)	
32	—	—	Alex Schiavi	- Inferno (M&E 239)	
33	—	—	Communication Union	- Where Land Meets Water (M&E 249)	
34	—	—	The Venus Fly Trap	- Rinascita (M&E 273)	
35	46	10	Magic Moments At Twilight Time	- Acidic Dreams With Sister Jody (MMATT 23)	
36	11	—	Stormclouds	- Trash (M&E 124)	
37	05	—	The Flowers Of Romance	- The Story So Far (M&E 088)	
38	—	—	Lord Litter	- In The Afterglow (M&E 270)	
39	—	—	The Fiends Of Zacharia	- You Had A Choice (M&E 135)	
40	—	—	Religious Vision	- Songs Of Faith (M&E 173)	
**	—	—	Religious Vision	- The Vampire's Legend (M&E 201)	
**	—	—	The Flowers Of Sacrifice	- Never Loved Eldritch (M&E 276)	
43	—	—	Invisible Universe	- Transient Age (M&E 225)	
44	—	—	Qubais Reed Ghazala	- Suite For Radio & Turntable (M&E 228)	
45	—	—	The Folkoffs	- Godzilla Meets The Housemaid (M&E 034)	
46	36	—	Tommy Mill Home	- The Clown (M&E 165)	
47	37	—	The Charles	- The Whirligig Cassette (M&E 089)	
48	49	06	X Ray Pop	- Under My Skirt (M&E 028)	
**	—	—	Dave Munkhoff	- In The Red (M&E 264)	
50	33	—	Unpleasant Suprise	- Without Classical Instruction (M&E 139)	

** = 3 titles tied for 40th and 2 titles tied for 48th position

THE BEST SELLING ARTISTS OF 1994!

No.	(93)	(92)	Artist
01	03	03	SONS OF SELINA
02	02	09	Wobble Jaggle Jiggle
03	01	01	Magic Moments A.T.T.
04	09	02	The Thamesmead Rollers
05	—	—	Kava Kava
06	—	—	Barra
07	21	—	Dark Star
08	07	10	Lord Litter
09	23	—	The Witches
10	—	—	Disc
11	04	13	Stormclouds
12	05	—	The Invisible Band
13	—	—	Alien Planetscapes
14	—	—	Sigis Bruder/Sigi E.
15	29	—	Animal Factory
16	—	—	Hecate's Dreams
17	24	—	Into The Abyss
18	—	—	Religious Vision
19	—	—	Cosmic Dance Society
20	14	—	The Original Mind Band
21	—	—	Schmertz Der Welten
22	—	—	B.D.F.
23	15	—	Cyborg Sex Babies
24	—	—	The Rorschach Garden
25	—	—	Elza/Comrade
26	—	—	Siegmar Fricke
27	—	—	The Flowers Of Sacrifice
28	—	—	Alex Schiavi
29	—	—	Communication Union
30	11	—	Unpleasant Suprise



PUBLICATIONS: THE BEST FEEDBACK CHART

No.	(93)	(92)	Publication
01	01	01	THE ORGAN - SEAN & MARINA, UNIT 206, THE OLD GRAMAPHONE WORKS, 326 KENSAL ROAD, LONDON, W10 5BZ, UK.
02	03	—	Try Acid - Steve Lines, 28 Churchill Close, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8EN, UK.
03	—	—	E.M.M.A. Newsletter - David Law, P.O. Box 71, Riccall, York, YO4 6YY, UK.
04	04	03	Ptolemaic Terrascope - Phil McMullen, 37 Sandridge Road, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 7BQ, UK.
05	05	02	Hawkfan - Brian Tawn, 27 Burdett Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 2PR, UK.
06	08	06	Guilfin - Thyagen, P.O. Box 217, Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6FF, UK.
07	—	—	E.S.T. - Brian Duguid, 35 Fordington Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5AN, UK.
08	—	—	Sound On Sound - Paul White, P.O. Box 30, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE17 4XQ, UK.
09	02	—	Waffle On Surreal - Robert Chambers, 5a Zion Gardens, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3LE, UK.
10	12	—	The Zine - Bo Maggs, P.O. Box 288, Shere, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 9JS, UK.
11	07	—	Fight Amnesia - Yanis Kalifatidis, Alicenstr. 27, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany.
12	09	—	Monolith News - John Harrison, P.O. Box 241, Leicester, LE4 6ZY, UK.
**	—	—	Rock N Reel - Sean McGhee, 8 Dent Place, Creator Moor, Cumbria, CA25 5EE, UK.
14	06	04	Irre Tapes Newsletter - Matthias Lang, Barendellstr. 35, 66862 Kindsbach, Germany.
15	—	—	Second Avenue - Trevor Hall, 58 Peel Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6AL, UK.

** = 2 publications tied for 12th position.

The Annual Thank-You's... Time for my Richard Attenborough "award luvvies" speech again! So many thanks to all the zines that have written about M&E, all the radioshow that have given airplay to any of our bands, the clever record labels that have had the sense to sign some of them and all of the bands that allow us to spread their music. Special thanks this year go to Mark Bell (TMR Productions/Braindead Studios) and family, for all the time and studio engineering work, for all the food (specially the beans) and for looking after me so many times.

And a little note; we won't be doing newsletters quarterly from '95 anymore, kept finding that three months just goes "whooooosh", and ya don't get time to do anything! So newsletters this year will be "New Year" (January), "Rise" (May) and "Fall" (September), just so's ya know. Also, instead of reprinting ordering details in this newsletter all the time, you'll find full details in the new Best Of Catty Log, as well as on the Networkers Info Sheets that appear from time to time, which will save me lots of time and lose Tipp-Ex lots of money. Wish all of you the very best for '95 (particularly Jon & Ros, we'll be thinking of you), have a great year, listen to lots of great music, spread the word, have fun, take care and all that kind of stuff! See ya..