

And Vinylly . . .

The Week's Hot New B

SOBULE "Things Here Are Different" (MCA). I probably know more about mating habits of the Tanzanian than I do Jill Sobule but, going for a glossy pic on the cover, she's a far more enticing prospect than any creepy creep. Best described as Cyndi Lauper zanne Vega's social conscience, the blonde Ms. Sobule has a reeling voice which switches from little girl to woman of the world with complete ease.

Rockster Todd Rundgren deserves a nod on the back, his squeaky clean sound is the perfect showcase for songs and turns tracks like 'Evian' and 'The Gifted Child' into works of art. 'So Kind' is probably Rundgren's finest moment, the tale of a wife who stands by her husband through quite simply, she still loves him. Jill's speaking from personal experience I don't know but there's a special charm to the song people like Tracy Chapman and Ani DiFran for. One of this year's more interesting debuts.

THE CRANBERRY SAW US "Water Circle" (Demo). It doesn't happen very often but once in a blue moon a new band comes along and you say to yourself "this could be the start of something big". Latest Limerick hotshots The Cranberry Saw Us are still a long way away from a record deal but if they can develop some of the deft little touches on this, their second tape, could be serious contenders by Christmas. The Cranberries got off to a bit of a false start last year when they were formed pretty much as a vehicle for the songs Niall Quinn didn't feel were suitable for his own band The Hitchers. The arrangement was never intended to be permanent and when Niall was forced to quit due to other commitments the rest of the lads were left with the long and often frustrating search for a new lead singer. They weren't really sure what they were looking for but when they stumbled across Laurel Hill sixth former Dolores they knew they'd found it. A total newcomer to the local rock scene, the lass sounds for all the world like Kirsty McColl's younger sister and has a

deliciously unaffected, almost innocent style which wouldn't seem out of place on an All About Eve record.

The opening cut, 'Sunday', is the band's trump card. Boasting a naggingly infectious hookline and lush keyboards, it's a beautifully understated pop song dominated by Dolores' multi-tracked vocals. 'Linger' is more of the same, this time showcasing Noel's Cure-ish guitar work and Fergal's sparse but effective drumming. 'A Fast One' begs comparison with Wicklow Indie darlings The Would Be's and is already one of the highlights of their live set. 'Chrome Paint' is the only disappointment. The moody, atmospheric song calls for a hint of menace but Dolores' tasteful warblings are just far too pleasant.

You tend to get very cynical in this job but The Cranberry's youthful exuberance is contagious and in some ways, after hearing 'Water Circle', I hope they never grow up!

THE SAWDOCTORS "I Useta Lover" (Solid Records 7"). Tuam's Saw Doctors don't deserve to be classed as clones

but that's exactly what they are since supporting last year and having been produced by Mike Sonny, helped by a line-up of Mandolin. Accompanied by Organ but that's pretty much comparisons end and it's time to stamp their own identity. Their release, 'I Useta Lover', is a palling grammar (don't do anything in school then) well executed piece of modern tomfoolery which owes a debt of gratitude to Chris Moving Hearts. Leading singer ability to turn even away a riotous singalong and if you hear he hasn't traded his for something a little more. The B-side features a raucous trad instrumental called 'Fiddles' and a truly appalling of 'I Useta Lover' which was 1981. Seriously, if a dog that can end up as a cracking hope for everyone!