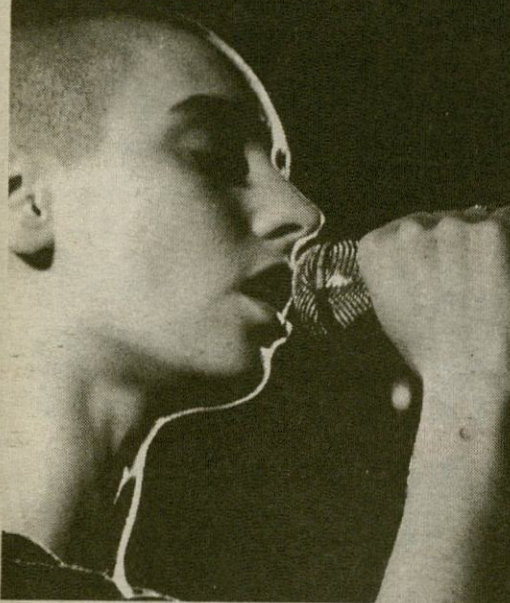


NEWS

SINEAD GOES BACK TO WAR



SINEAD O'CONNOR was at the centre of yet another controversy on Friday (October 16) when she was booed offstage at the Bob Dylan 30th anniversary concert at Madison Square Garden, New York.

This followed hard on the heels of the outrage she'd provoked two weeks earlier by ripping up a picture of the Pope on the "Saturday Night Live" television show.

The four-and-a-half-hour concert featured a host of musical luminaries performing Dylan songs—with and without the great man himself. When Sinead O'Connor walked onstage, she was met with massive yells of hostility, described by audience members as "frighteningly intense and with incredibly violent overtones".

The house band, led by Dylan veteran GE Smith, tentatively began to pick out an intro, presumably that of "I Believe In You", which O'Connor had been scheduled to sing. However, as the boos grew to even louder extremes, she signalled to the musicians to stop playing. Finally, she sang an unaccompanied version of Bob Marley's "War" before bursting into tears in front of the 20,000-strong audience.

Singer Kris Kristofferson, who had introduced her, walked over, put his arms around her and led her offstage.

[Full concert report next week]

SONIC YOUTH have confirmed that Pavement and Call will appear as special guests on their forthcoming UK tour. Both bands' first recordings came out on the Sonics' Thurston Moore's Ecstatic Peace label. Meanwhile, the band have switched their Glasgow Barrowlands show from December 11 to December 10. Tickets for all dates are £8.50, except London Brixton Academy on December 14 (£9.50).

JULIAN COPE is using his forthcoming UK tour to publicise the anti-fur trade pressure group, Lynx. The organisation's merchandise will be on sale at all shows on the tour—as will tickets for a fund-raising raffle, with Cope's famous "Cosmic Asshole" swivelling mic stand/climbing frame as first prize! The winner will be drawn at the final date on the tour, at the London Town & Country Club on November 6.

HELMET return to the UK next month as guests of Ministry. The band last appeared in the UK in June with a sold-out gig at the Camden Underworld. The band, who were signed by Interscope for an outrageous one-and-a-half million dollars, appear at Brixton Academy on November 14, Manchester Academy (15), Nottingham Rock City (17) and Glasgow Barrowlands (18).

MERCURY REV and **THE CRANBERRIES** are appearing as special guests to The House Of Love at their Royal Albert Hall show on November 20. This will be the only House Of Love appearance until next year. Mercury Rev are flying in from New York especially for the show, which coincides with the release of their debut album for Beggars Banquet. They, too, will make this their only UK show before 1993. The Cranberries, from Ireland, will appear as the opening act. Special coach services will be running to the venue from all over the country. Tickets for the gig are on sale now at £8.50, and people holding tickets for the rescheduled September 24 show must exchange them at point of purchase.



RED HOUSE PAINTERS, the acclaimed San Francisco-based quartet, play their debut British gig at the London Borderline on November 3. They will include songs from their recently-released album, "Down Colorful Hill", as well as previewing material from the forthcoming, as-yet-untilled, double album, which they are currently recording in San Francisco.



Mercury Rev

REZNOR GROWS HIS NAILS AGAIN

TRENT REZNOR has been talking this week about the new directions he's planning for Nine Inch Nails. And he has also revealed why the band almost broke up—at the height of its success.

According to Reznor, a long-running feud between himself and his American label came to a head around the time of the recording of "Broken", the album which shot into the Top 10 in the States earlier this month.

The dispute had reached such serious proportions that Reznor insisted on recording the album "in a variety of locations, without the permission of the record label".

He said, "I thought at that point that Nine Inch Nails was pretty much over because of the intense trouble we were having with the record label,TVT, which was preventing any sort of thing that I would want to do from happening.

"It just became a very unproductive situation. Any ideas I came up with would have to go through this elaborate okaying process to the point where making music or making anything to do with records was not fun, was not enjoyable.

"In America, our career was sky-rocketing. On the one hand, I'd see that happening, and on the other hand, I knew that we were on thin ice because the kind of music I wanted to make I was being prevented from making.

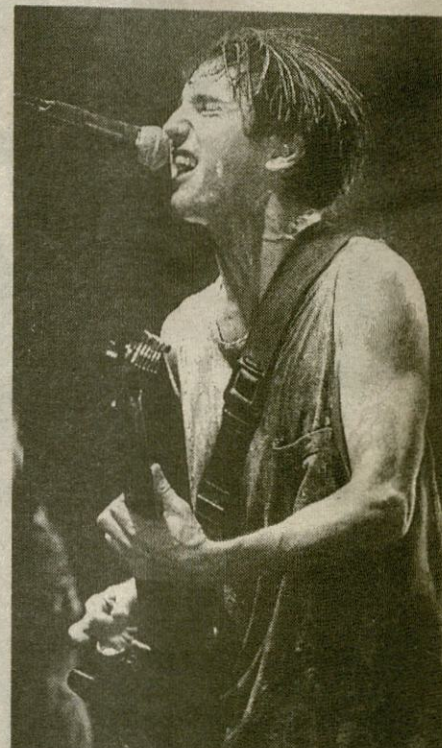
"It's really disheartening to know that your art is being stopped and, creatively, you're chained."

Finally, the American company Interscope took over TVT distribution and, as part of the deal, Nine Inch Nails secured their own label, Nothing.

Reznor said: "I'm now fortunate enough to be in a situation where they're telling me, 'Here's a budget for the record, give me a tape when you're finished.' Nobody's telling me what I can and cannot put on that record."

Reznor referred to the forthcoming EP, "Fixed", which features remixes of the "Broken" tracks, "Happiness In Slavery", "Wish", "Last" and "Gave Up".

"They are radically different remixes of most of the songs on 'Broken'. I called in people (producers) I really respected to redo these songs, rather than me redoing them. 'For example, I gave Jim Thurwell from Foetus a copy of 'Wish' and just said, 'Don't do a better mix of it, necessarily. Just change it to whatever you want to do, whether it's unlistenable or atonal or whatever you think



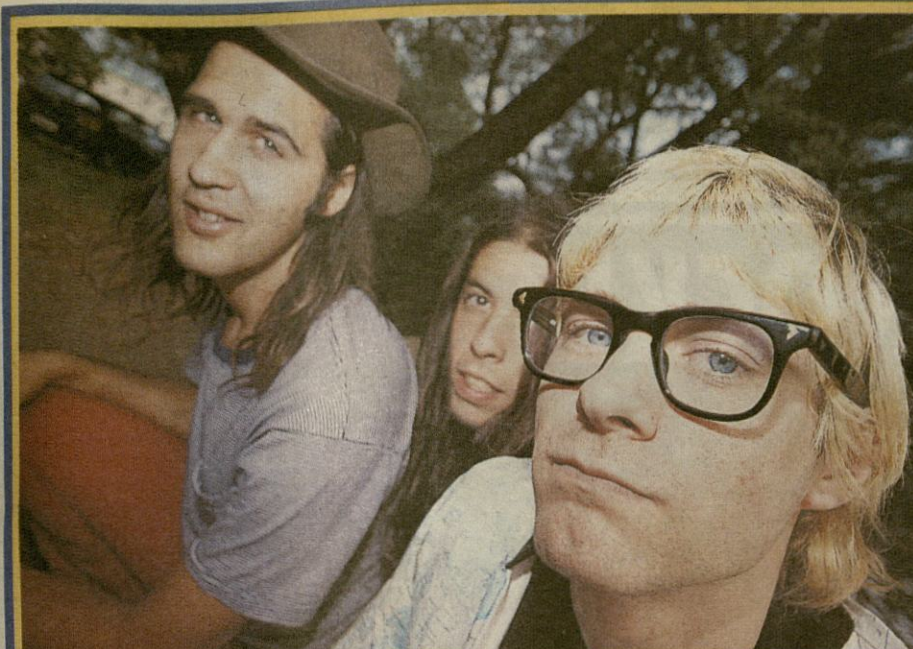
is cool. I'm not going to tell you I think it's bad. And it turned out awesome. It's a lot less accessible. Some of the songs, on the other hand, are a lot more danceable."

Asked about the next Nine Inch Nails album, "The Downward Spiral", Reznor said: "My idea is that it has a theme and a story. Without being pretentious, it will have a flow, from a beginning to an end. It won't be singles-orientated, but a flow from one thing to another.

"The general theme is of someone who's thrown away every single thing, including a desire to fit in in terms of a relationship or a religion or any sort of thing to believe in."

The album also reflects on the music industry, "which disgusts me". Of the musical content, Reznor said: "I'm trying to strip everything down. 'Broken' was an experiment in throwing everything but the kitchen sink into something but, with 'The Downward Spiral', I'm trying to make a very minimal, less busy record. I want a demo-like sound that doesn't sound finished.

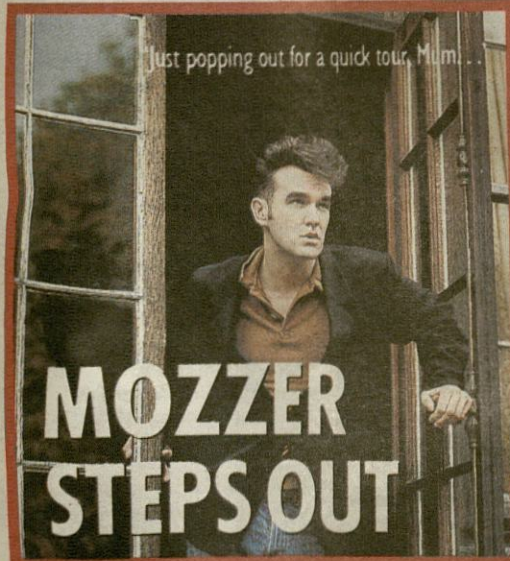
"Half of it, tentatively, is very aggressive, and the other half is more ambient. It will still be an electronic-based record, but also using things I've never experimented with that much, like real drums, or real guitars. I think I'm going to produce it completely myself, just to see what happens."



NIRVANICIDE

NIRVANA are set to release a new LP, "Incesticide", in December. It's a compilation album with 15 tracks, including the original Sub Pop version of "Sliver" and a cover of The Vaselines' song, "Molly's Lips". "Incesticide" also features session tracks recorded for the John Peel and Mark Goodier shows, as well as a version of The Wipers' "Return Of The Rat" from the recent tribute singles box set on C/Z Records, and

"Beeswax" from the "Kill Rock Stars" compilation. The LP is also rumoured to include a handful of out-takes from "Nevermind". Nirvana begin recording the follow-up to "Nevermind" next month. They plan to record the entire album on eight-track in an attempt to move closer to the grungier sound of "Bleach". Steve Albini is heavily rumoured to be producing.



Just popping out for a quick tour. Mum...

MOZZER STEPS OUT

MORRISSEY plays a British tour in December after selling out his Christmas show at the London Alexandra Palace on December 19. And he has also this week announced the release of a new single and video. The tour opens at Sheffield City Hall on December 11, continuing at Birmingham NEC Atrium Hall (12), Newcastle City Hall (14), Manchester Apollo (15), Glasgow Barrowlands (16), Bristol Colston Hall (18) and London Alexandra Palace (19). Tickets are £12.50, except for Birmingham and Glasgow (£12). The Birmingham tickets are on sale now from the box office and usual agents. In Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow and Bristol, they go on sale on October 23 from the box offices and agencies.

The single, "Certain People I Know", is released by HMV in November. All formats feature a new track, "Jack The Ripper", while 12-inch and CD formats add another new one, "You've Had Her". The new Morrissey video, "The Malady Lingers On", comes out on PMI at the end of November. It features his eight most recent UK and American promo clips.

'SENSELESS THINGS!' SAYS RECORD LABEL

THE SENSELESS THINGS look set for big trouble over the title of their new single, "Homophobic Asshole". The band's label, Epic, initially refused to release the single, saying that it would receive no radio play. They complained that the words "homophobic asshole" didn't feature anywhere in the lyric, and therefore couldn't understand why the band should have wanted to jeopardise what chances they had of radio play.

However, the label finally agreed to go ahead with the release, and manager Tim Webster said: "They're not refusing to promote it or anything like that, they're just telling us that no one will play it."

The song is based on a person the band met in America. "He seemed really nice, then started being a real asshole," Webster told The Maker. "We couldn't call it 'Homophobic' and we couldn't call it 'Homophobic Naughty Man'. It just wouldn't sound the same, would it?"

The single features the lyrics: "After a drink or three/You stopped making sense to me/Started cussing guys with hate like you ain't alright if you ain't straight."

The single, released by Epic on November 16, is backed by "Body Bag" and "Just Flirting". It was produced by Ralph Jezzard. Once again, it features cover art by Jamie Hewlett. Webster said: "Basically, it's a picture of either an angry or a scared-looking person. It's in a totally different style to his other stuff."

NEWS

SHANE & CAVE IN TUNE

SHANE MACGOWAN and **NICK CAVE** have recorded a cover version of the old Louis Armstrong classic, "Wonderful World". The Maker can exclusively reveal. The pair performed the song at Cave's Town & Country show in London a few weeks ago and decided to record a version of it soon after. The track's released by Mute at the end of November. It's backed by Cave singing a version of The Pogues' "A Rainy Night In Soho" as well as a MacGowan version of Cave's "Lucy". The accompanying video was shot in London last week. It features Cave and MacGowan in a Fifties cabaret club setting. Cave is currently in Brazil. He returns to London next month to record a performance for "The Late Show".



MARK ARMED FOR ABORTION BATTLE

MUDHONEY'S Mark Arm has been speaking to The Maker about "Freedom Of Choice", a benefit compilation album featuring Sonic Youth, Redd Kross and Superchunk—with all proceeds going to The Planned Parenthood Federation Of America. The album, released by City Slang on November 9, includes a Sonic Youth cover of Plastic Bertrand's "Ce Plane Pour Moi", Yo La Tengo with Blondie's "Dreaming" and Das Damen's version of The Pretenders' "The Wait". The idea for the album came from Tannis Root, a silk-screen company from North Carolina, who specialise in tour tee-shirts. Originally, they wanted to release a compilation album featuring the bands they worked with, but the project expanded to finish up as a benefit album for the association. Its release in the week of the American presidential election is highly significant.

"To outlaw abortion is an invasion of privacy," says Mudhoney's Mark Arm, who contributed a cover of Elvis Costello's "Pump It Up" to the album. "This whole subject shouldn't be a political issue, but, unfortunately, the Republican party has become infiltrated with fundamentalist Christians to the highest levels, and these people are funding the party. To them, abortion is evil, and they won't tolerate it."

For several years now, Planned Parenthood has been committed to protecting a woman's right to make her own decisions about her body. During this election campaign, "family values" have featured heavily in the Republican party's manifesto, with Vice-President Dan Quayle appearing on television twice in recent months condemning, of all things, sit-coms "The Simpsons" and "Murphy Brown" for the decline of "family values". He also blamed the LA riots on "lack of family values". The raising of the "family values" banner, in particular the Republicans' desire to ban abortion across the States, has led to the rise of direct opposition movements, such as L7's Rock To Choice Organisation which has staged gigs

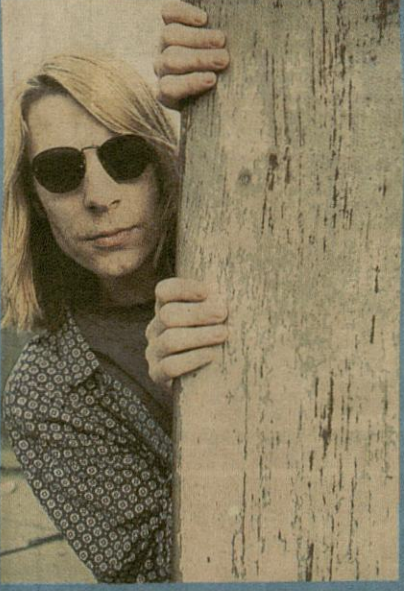
featuring Nirvana, Mudhoney, Fugazi, Pearl Jam and Hole. The release of the "Freedom Of Choice" album is perhaps the strongest yet statement of opposition to Republican policy.

"What exactly are family values, anyway?" asked Gerri Fennelly, vocalist with Redd Kross, who've covered "How Much More?" by The Go-Go's for the album. "I mean, God—how many adulterous politicians have there been over the years? How many pregnant Republican party secretaries have had abortions? It's all just so utterly hideous and hypocritical—but then, that's politics, I guess."

The issue isn't all American. Sinead O'Connor recently stepped to the defence of a young girl in Ireland who found herself pregnant after being raped. Under Irish law, she was not allowed an abortion and had to travel to the UK to have the pregnancy terminated. In Germany—where City Slang is based—the government are trying to make it as difficult as possible to get an abortion.

"Abortion is a problem all over the world," says City Slang's Anna Ellinghaus. "In Germany, you have to go through so much hassle to get an abortion; you have to see two doctors and get medical stamps. However, America is considered by many people to be the moral standard, and what Bush says carries a lot of power. All over the world, there seems to be a move to the Right, and I think we should forget nationalities and get on with trying to stop the infringement of people's rights. An album like this is good because it contributes to that by raising awareness about this particular issue."

"You've got to remember," says Mark Arm, "that the Republicans are more than ready to throw themselves underneath trains to protect the life of an unborn baby, but they'll be the first ones to stand up and send people to the electric chair."



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NEWS
KNIFE ROCKET IN


SHONEN KNIFE play a full-scale tour to coincide with the release of their album, "Let's Knife", and a new single. The single, "Riding On The Rocket", is released by August Records on November 2. It's backed with "Milky Way", "Burning Farm" and "Riding On The Rocket (Reprise)". A limited edition seven-inch format contains "Neon Zebra" on the B-side. Dates open at Southampton Joiners on November 16, continuing at Windsor Old Trout (17), Aylesbury Civic Centre (18), Norwich Waterfront (19), Derby Wherehouse (20), Birmingham Edwards No 8 (22), Sheffield University (23), Leeds University (24), Manchester University (25), London ULU (26), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (28), Edinburgh Venue (29), Newcastle Riverside (30), Liverpool University (December 1), Leicester Princess Charlotte (3), Cambridge Junction (4), Oxford Venue (5) and Bristol La Kota (6). Tickets for London are £6, varying elsewhere between £4 and £5. Support on all dates are The BMX Bandits, except in Edinburgh and Glasgow where Superstar will play.

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE, the polemic LA quartet who've supported Public Enemy, Pearl Jam and Body Count in America, have announced a one-off headline date at the London Borderline on October 23. The band, who made their UK debut at Suicidal Tendencies' recent Town & Country Club show, will be returning to Britain in the New Year for gigs coinciding with the release of their debut album.

PERSPEX WHITEOUT's one-sided 12-inch single, "Triplealbum", which was to have been released by Imaginary last week, has been delayed due to a legal dispute between the band and their former label, Sunflower. The row concerns "Hey Girl", the lead track on "Triplealbum". An earlier version of the same song appeared as the band's debut single on Sunflower last year and, although the version on "Triplealbum" is a re-recording, Sunflower claim that they own the rights to the song. "Triplealbum" is nevertheless being released this week, with the controversial track listed as "Hey Girl" - and the sleeve adorned with a sticker depicting a gibbon with a sunflower stuck up its back passage! A spokesman for the band observed: "Some people may feel that this is in reference to Sunflower supremo, Gibby. We, however, couldn't possibly comment."

FINITRIBE are hitting the road to follow the success of their "An Unexpected Groovy Treat". They play Newcastle University (November 6), Coventry Tic Toc (7), Birmingham Edwards No 8 (10), Manchester Boardwalk (11), London Commonwealth Institute (12), Windsor Old Trout (13), Luton College (14), Greenwich Polytechnic (18), London ULU (19), Bristol Polytechnic (21), Brighton Zap Club (23), Glamorgan University (24), Glasgow University (26), Edinburgh University (27) and Aberdeen University (28). The group are currently working on a dub version of the album, scheduled for January release.

BIZARRE INC., currently in the charts with the single, "I'm Gonna Get You", release their debut album, "Energieque", on Vinyl Solution this week. A limited edition of the vinyl version will come with a free 12-inch. **THE LEMON TREES**, led by ex-World Party keyboardist Guy Chambers, release their second single for Oxygen next week. It's called "The Way I Feel", and the accompanying video, shot in Los Angeles, is a pastiche of "The Graduate" film. Various different formats are backed by a number of songs including "Cokehead", "You Can't Trust The One You Love", "Tomorrow's Here" and "Feels So Nice", as well as live and acoustic versions of the A-Side.

THE SMASHED! CLUB at the Islington Powerhaus has lined up another handful of gigs kicking off with The Mouth on October 21, Treetop (28), Back To The Planet (November 4), The Cherrys (11), Bleach (25) and Radiohead (December 2). **THE FARM** are asking female singers to send them audition tapes. The band want to invite two girls from each town they're playing on their forthcoming tour to guest on backing vocals when they perform their cover of The Human League's "Don't You Want Me". Hopeful applicants should send tapes to Sarah Northcliffe at Laister Dickson Limited, 2 Newburgh Street, London W1 1UH.

TIM BRICHENO, the former Sisters Of Mercy guitarist, is to launch his new band, CNN, with a co-headlining tour with Front Line Assembly. They play Glasgow University Queen Margaret's Union (November 15), Leeds University (17), Liverpool University (18), Belfast Queen's University (19), Dublin Trinity College (20), Birmingham University (22), Nottingham Rock City (23), Cambridge Junction (24), and London Astoria (29). Ticket prices are pegged at five pounds on all dates, and Ragged Jack support. As previously announced, CNN's eponymous debut EP is being released by On Records on November 9 to coincide - and the band have now announced that the three-track, 12-inch-only EP will be deleted at the end of the tour.

BALLOON release their debut single, "Tightrope Walker", on Dedicated on November 2. It's backed by "Sailor On Horseback" and "Nothing Out There." The band are to support American comedian Bill Hicks on his November British tour. They play a number of warm-up dates at Manchester University (with The Cranberries - October 24), London Islington Powerhaus (23) and Harlesden Mean Fiddler (with Indigo Girls - 28).

NEW Heavenly signings, Espiritu, this week release their debut single, "Francisca" c/w "Francisca Remix". The band were formed by Chris Taplin, a founder member of Frazier Chorus.

BOIT THROWER release a new album on Earache on November 2. They have also this week announced a December tour. Titled "The Fourth Crusade", the LP is produced by Colin Richardson, who has previously worked with Napalm Death and Happy Mondays. The band play Liverpool Royal Court (December 4), Bradford Queens Hall (15), Edinburgh Venue (6), Leicester Princess Charlotte (8), Birmingham Edwards No.8 (9), Oxford Jericho Tavern (10), Coventry General Wolfe (11) and London Marquee (12).

INDIGO GIRLS are set to release a new single, "Galileo" c/w "Kid Fears", on Epic on October 26. The CD has two extra tracks, "Closer To Fine" and "Tried To Be True", which features R.E.M.'s Peter Buck and Mike Mills. The band return for more live dates after the success of their sell-out show at the London Clapham Grand earlier this month. They play Harlesden Mean Fiddler (October 28) and Dublin SFX (31).

GRANT MCLENNAN returns to the UK after a year's absence to play an acoustic set at the West Kensington Orange on November 5. He has just finished his second solo album which is due for release early next year.

ULTRA VIVID SCENE release their third album for 4AD this week. Entitled "Rev", it features nine new songs written by mainman Kurt Ralske. There are guest contributions on two tracks from Matthew Sweet.

HOUSE OF PAIN, the Irish American rappers, celebrate the Stateside success of their "Jump Around" single with the release their eponymously-titled debut album on November 2 on XL. The band are currently touring the States supporting the likes of The Ramones, Megadeth and Suicidal Tendencies.

DRUNK DRIVING
GALLON DRUNK return from their Stateside sojourn with Morrissey for a handful of headlining dates around the UK this month. The band, who've just released a new single, "Bedlam", kick off shows at Norwich Waterfront on October 26, continuing at Birmingham Edwards No 8 (27), Stoke Wheatstheaf (28), Newcastle Riverside (29), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (30), Manchester University (31) and Liverpool University (November 1). (See feature - centre pages)
THE SHAMEN have the accompanying video to their "Boss Drum" album released by Vision Video at the start of next month. "Boss Video" features "Ebenesse Goode" as well as "Love Sex Intelligence", "Move Any Mountain Progen '92", "Progen" and "Boss Drum". It retails for around £11.
THE ORB have added an extra date to their British tour at Manchester Academy on November 1. Tickets are on sale now priced £8.50.

POP WILL EAT ITSELF have announced another date at Northampton Roadmenders on October 26.
A FAN was injured at a Lawnmower Deth concert at the Mansfield Leisure Centre on October 10. Reports are unclear whether he has broken or fractured his neck, but The Deth's lead singer, Pete Lee (Alias Qualcast Mutilator), told The Maker, "We noticed someone lying flat on the floor and stopped the show. He was taken away by the St John's ambulance crew and when we finished the gig, the kid was in our dressing room wearing a neck brace. He was lying on a stretcher making the most horrible of noises, similar to the howls my dog made when he got run over."

The Nottingham noise terrorists support their recently-released album, "Return Of The Fabulous Metal Bozo Clownz", with more dates in November. They play Milton Keynes Woughton Centre (November 8), Plymouth The Ark (9), Reading Phoenix Club (10), Buckley Trivoli (12), Liverpool Crazy House (13), London Marquee (14) and Bradford Rio (15).

COP SHOOT COP have had the American release of their "Suck City EP" postponed until after the US Presidential election, as a result of phone calls from Vice President Dan Quayle to the head of their American label, Interscope! Quayle called Interscope chief Ted Fields to complain about rap group 2-Pac - whose lyrics, he alleges, inspired the killing of a policeman. After the furor over Ice-T's "Cop Killer", and bearing in mind that Interscope's distributors, Atlantic, already had two lawsuits pending against them, Fields felt that now was not the best time to release a record by a band called Cop Shoot Cop! Vocalist Tod A commented: "I guess Mao was right - political power does begin at the end of a gun, self-censorship is the most insidious form of censorship. It's frightening that it's happening to us."

DAISY CHAINSAW have apologised for the cancellation of their planned shows at Bournemouth Academy and Reading TU Club last Tuesday and Wednesday (October 13 & 14). The band were forced to scrap the shows after Katie Jane Garside fell victim to some botched emergency dental surgery. She was left in severe pain and unable to eat, let alone sing. A spokesman said: "Unfortunately, the gigs can't be rescheduled because, after this week, the band are due to be out of the country until March. They're really are very sorry about it - especially Katie!"

DROP NINETEENS have added a third London date to their forthcoming UK tour. The acclaimed Boston quintet play at the Camden Palace on October 27. Meanwhile, the release of the band's new single has been put back a week. "My Aquarium (Second Time Around)" will now be released by Hut on November 2.

SHOCKWAVES reverberated throughout the music industry this week over news that the Tories plan to destroy the National Union Of Students' automatic membership policy. Such a move would create far-reaching repercussions - among them the collapse of the university live gig circuit. The circuit is an invaluable breeding ground for up-and-coming talent, an important source of gigs for unknown bands and an essential reference point for record company A&R people. Its potential demise is therefore widely viewed as a catastrophe. As things stand at the moment, anyone starting college or university automatically becomes a Students' Union member. But plans unveiled at the Brighton Tory conference would introduce voluntary membership. This would mean that the new student would be offered two alternatives: the chance to join the SU or a free £20 to be spent however he or she pleased. The benefits of the Students' Union greatly exceed a paltry £20. They include discounts of up to 50 per cent at cinemas, restaurants and theatres (and up to 90 per cent at bookshops), discount membership of sports clubs, cheap travel, discounts on admission to discos, subsidised bars, and the chance to see hundreds of bands a year, some for free. The unions also promise students that they "need never feel alone again", because they are guaranteed representation. The threats posed by any voluntary membership scheme were outlined this week by Matt Williams, head of the NUS Entertainments Committee. He told The Maker: "With automatic membership, we can estimate our budgets and plan which bands we're going to have. That means we can afford to take risks and make a loss with support acts or small bands that we put on for free. Bands like Kingmaker or Carter desperately needed the student circuit when they started. If we can't budget, then we can only take on really safe bands. "Our venues would have to be used for more commercial purposes like discos, which always make money. Live music would be completely jeopardised, which is terrible, because it is an essential part of our programme. An 18-year-old doesn't just go to college for an education; they also go to get drunk, have sex, and to be exposed to all kinds of new things, especially music. "It's scary to think how it will affect the whole of the music industry. Williams predicted that new bands, especially outside London, would have to rely on pub venues for early gigs, where they might have to pay to play. He added that, "Record companies will find it hard to fill their rosters." He finally stated: "If voluntary membership is introduced, it will jeopardise the licensing of who is or is not able to enter a Students' Union building. We've recently been moving towards open licensing, allowing the general public in. Bands like The Senseless Things, Mega City Four and Carter USM, have the university circuit to thank for the opportunity of building their live audiences. Carter's manager, Adrian Boss, said this week of the Conservatives' plans: "I find this news very upsetting. The band see the Students' Unions as invaluable. Not only do they provide students with cheap access to all forms of entertainment but, in some towns, they're the only entertainment for non-students, too. Plus, if you're a student who finds yourself in any sort of trouble, the union becomes essential, offering counselling, help with housing and financial advice - which, if you're 18 and 200 miles away from home, can be worth a lot more than £20. "Sod the Government. You can save their £20 in your first week at the bar."

Jeff Meall of The Agency, which represents EMF, Faith No More and Pop Will Eat Itself, among other acts, said this week: "I used to be a Social Secretary, so I know all about the Students' Unions. To turn down the opportunity to join one would deprive the student of the benefits of the live gig circuit. "The collapse of the Students' Union must not be allowed to happen. It would be a catastrophe. It is fundamental for breaking new bands in this country. It is a vital stepping stone. "Some of the bigger universities might be okay because they'll probably be able to fund their own activities. Then again, even places like Nottingham University, which has a completely subsidised Sunday band night, would have to cut back. I worry about smaller colleges like Luton who will find it hard to fund their live scene. It's a nightmare." Simon Dunford of The Bardots told The Maker: "The

Tories would love to stuff the NUS, and I'm sure they have a plan to wreck NUS finances. It'll probably mean that some ENTS officers will have to go, and those left will have to play safe, up the prices and only book the biggest bands. But more than that, the whole range of Students' Union services would suffer, like insurance, travel and campus shops, which means more to fork out for from dwindling grants." John Patten, Secretary Of State For Education, told the Brighton conference: "Most students who go on to college or to university do so because they want a good education and a qualification that they can use to get on in life. It's only a few who get involved, through the National Union Of Students, in supporting dubious causes of no interest to other students. In a free country, that is their privilege. But why should the tax-payer have to pay for it? "It has always been our aim as a party to preserve and extend personal liberty and freedom of choice. I will therefore bring forward proposals to establish the voluntary principle as the basis for union membership. "We have abolished the closed shop everywhere else. There is no reason why it should linger on in our colleges and universities. The NUS closed shop must go.



Carter: "Very upsetting news..."
UNION CITY
BLUES

And it will go. Soon. Earlier this year, on June 15, Nigel Foreman, Under Secretary Of State For Education, told a Commons adjournment debate: "At present, students have no choice over whether to join their campus union. It is almost impossible for them to leave the union if they do not agree with its actions. That contravenes a basic democratic principle - that membership of such organisations should be voluntary. In other words, there are ways in which campus unions are a form of closed shop." Foreman also said, "The use of public funds is another factor to be considered. The campus unions and the NUS are private associations, yet their funds originate largely from the public purse. I say 'largely' because private funds are also involved. "I have great sympathy with students who do not wish to belong to an organisation which they feel does not represent their views. The difficulties arise when a small minority of politically-motivated students use campus unions as a platform for their own opinions and exploit compulsory membership." Lorna Fitzsimons, NUS President, refutes the Tory claim that the NUS is a closed shop. She told The Maker: "The voluntary principle already exists. When a student becomes a member of the educational establishment, he or she has access to all the facilities of the institution. A student can choose whether to use them or not."

The Bardots fear a stuffing

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