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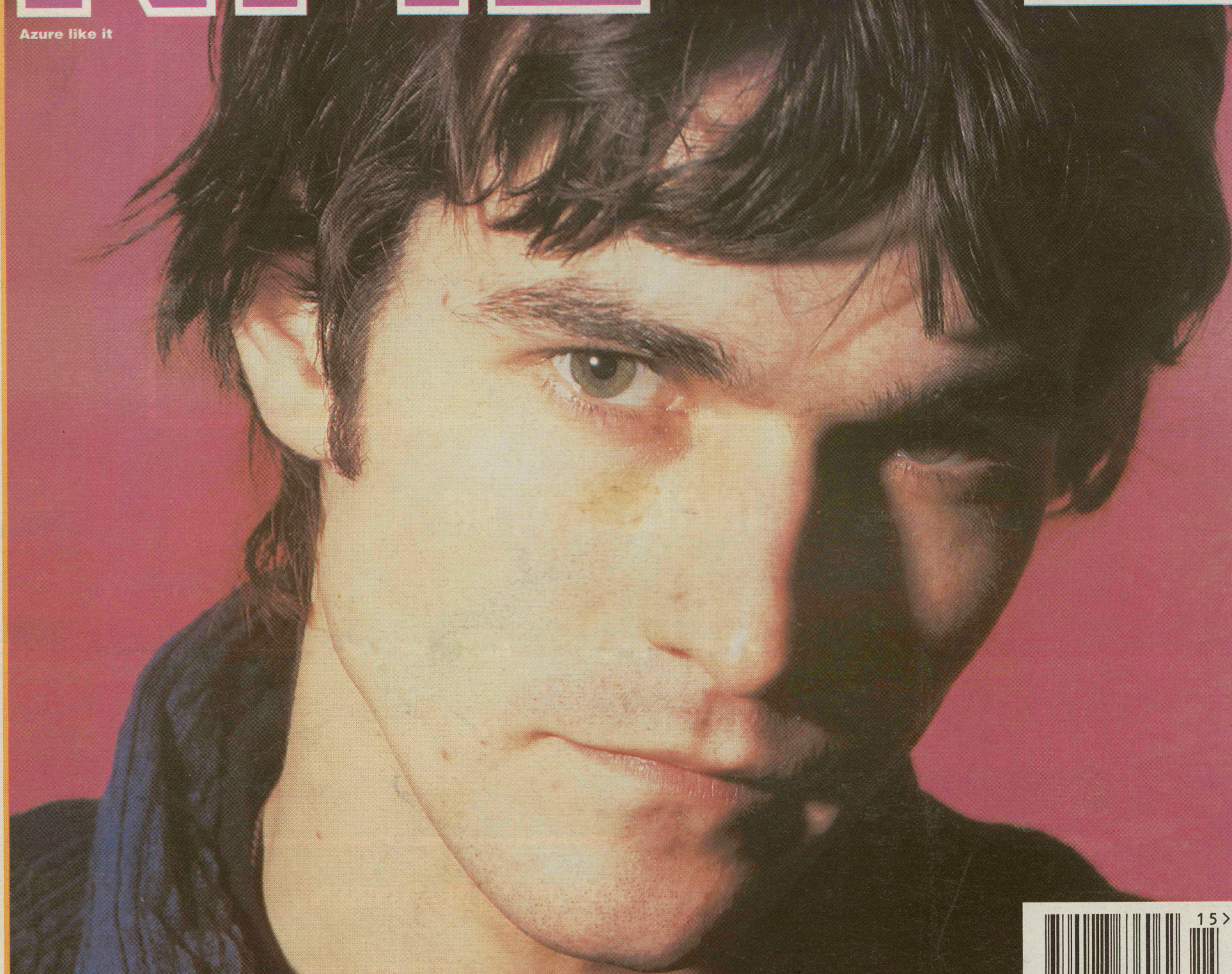
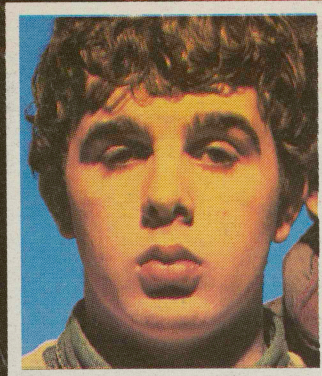
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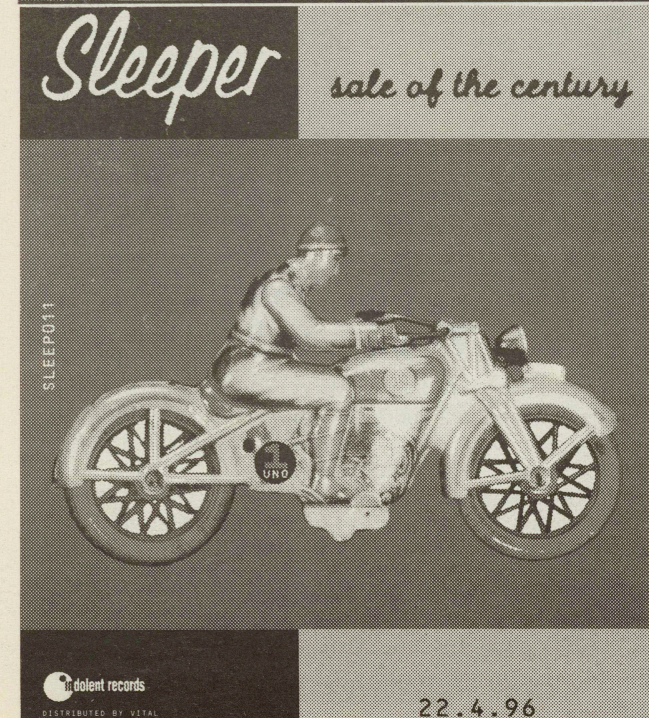
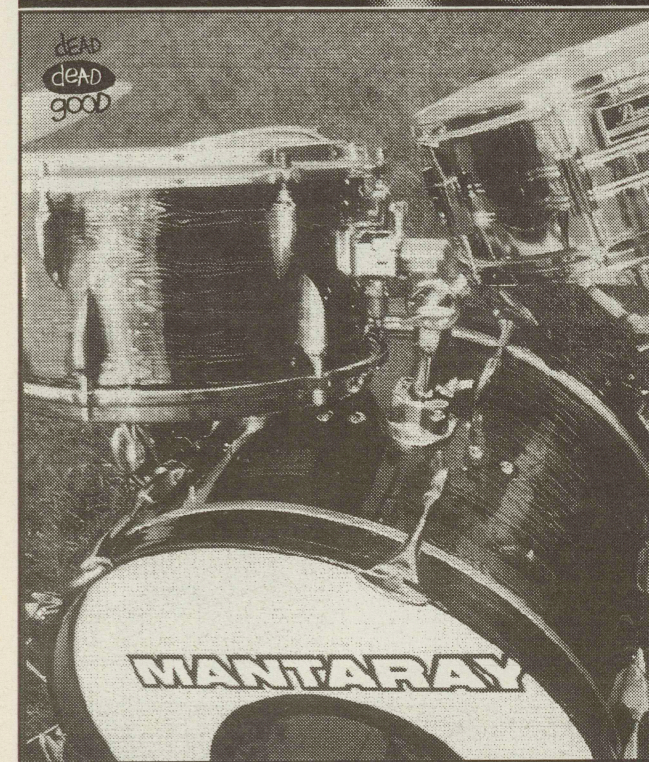
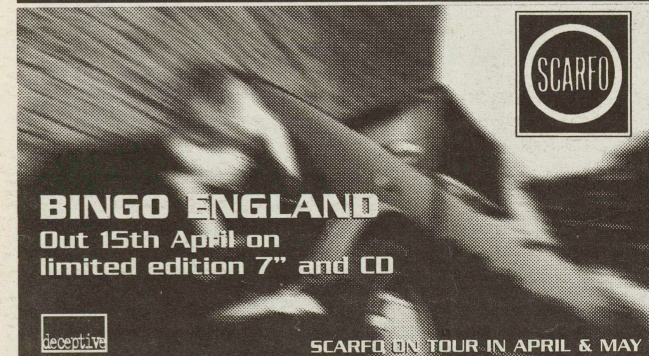
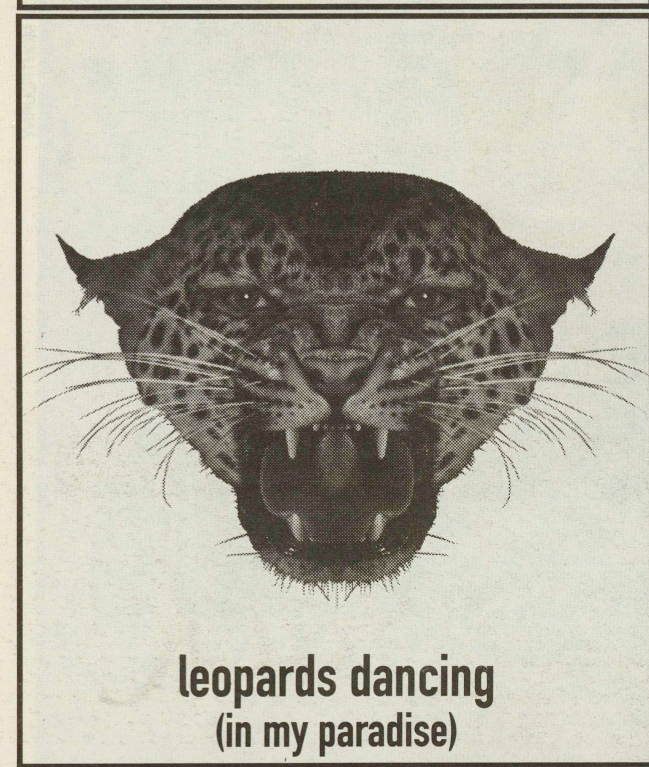
# THE BLUETONES

From rags to riches

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★ SONIC YOUTH  
TORTOISE ★ RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE ★ BECK ★ TERRY GILLIAM  
BLACK GRAPE ★ BURT BACHARACH AND THE EASY-LISTENING REVIVAL

The Bluetones' Mark Morriss photographed by Kevin Cummins





# Sice gets the Humpty

**SICE**, lead singer with **THE BOO RADLEYS**, has announced details of his debut solo album 'First Fruits'.

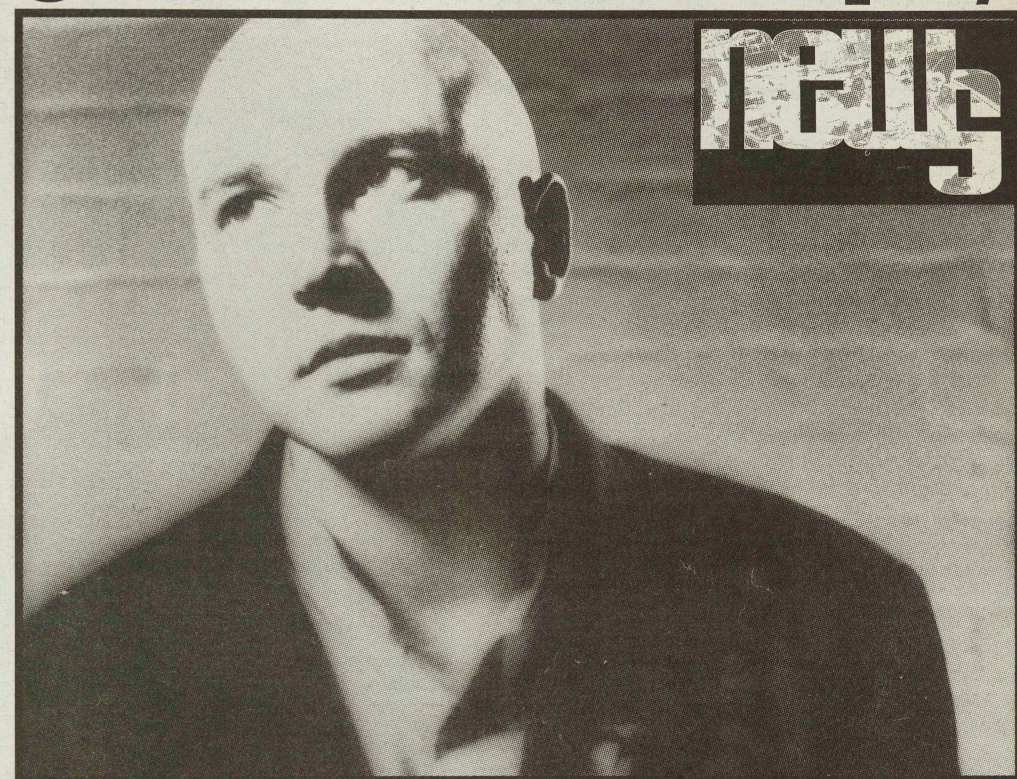
'First Fruits', recorded under the name **EGGMAN**, is released on May 27.

Sice is currently in Boston with The Boo Radleys remixing their forthcoming, as yet untitled album, the follow-up to 'Wake Up!'.

He was joined on his Eggman project by the other three Boo Radleys, along with Creation odd-job man and sometime Boos keyboardist Ed Ball and 18 Wheeler's Sean Jackson.

A single, 'Not Bad Enough', will be released on May 6, but Sice has no plans to tour as a solo artist.

The track-listing is 'Purple Patches', 'Tomas', 'That's That Then (For Now)', 'Not Bad Enough', 'The Funeral Song', 'Replace All Your Lies With Truth', 'Out Of My Window', 'Look Up', 'I'll Watch Your Back' and 'First Fruits Fall'.



Sice: the egghead now known as Eggman

● **RADIOHEAD** continue to unveil new material on their American tour.

As well as 'Electioneering', previewed earlier this month, the other new titles are 'Let Down', 'Lift

and 'Promise', played for the first time at the San Francisco Fillmore on March 27. The band also played 'Subterranean Homesick Alien', previewed as an acoustic version on XFM last year.

## JEFFREY LEE PIERCE 1961-1996

**JEFFREY LEE PIERCE**, founder of seminal '80s blues-punk band The Gun Club, died from a blood clot on the brain in Utah, Colorado on Sunday, March 31. Pierce was there to visit his father who

was hospitalised with a stroke. Formed in 1980 in Los Angeles, The Gun Club featured Pierce and guitarist Kid Congo Powers; their sound explored the dark side of the delta blues and

their set included a version of Robert Johnson's 'Preaching The Blues'. Their debut album featured the spectacular 'Sex Beat'. Powers defected to The Cramps to replace Bryan Gregory and The Gun Club continued to record for Blondie man Chris Stein's Animal Records.

Pierce, a dynamic frontman and guitarist, was beset by drug and alcohol problems which, in time, took their toll. He gained weight and, in 1985, disbanded the group to launch a solo career. He later reformed the band for three further albums, including the acclaimed 'Divinity'.

There was a self-obsessed, self-pitying and self-destructive side to Pierce that was unpleasant to behold, probably brought about by his years of heroin addiction, but he was also a ferocious and talented musician and when he applied himself wholly to the music, he transcended everything else.

Prior to his death, Pierce had been clean and planning a move to New York to assemble a new band.



Jeffrey Lee Pierce: frontman and guitarist with The Gun Club who died on March 31

## Twisted knickers story...

**THE CRANBERRIES** singer Dolores O'Riordan received a public apology and a £5,000 donation to Warchild from *The Sport* newspaper over allegations printed that she appeared onstage

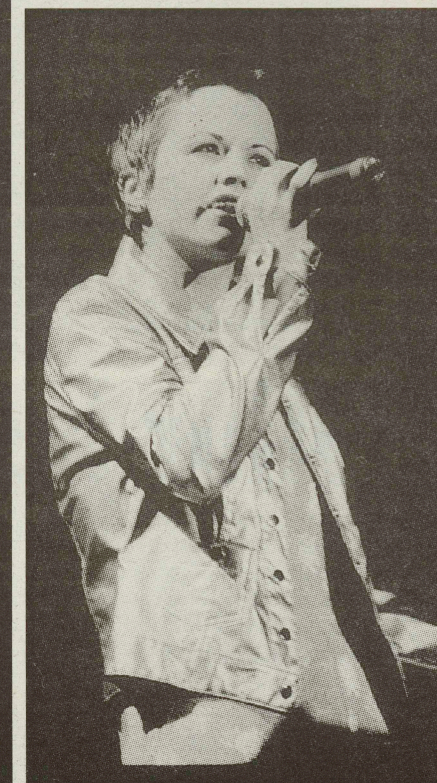
without any knickers. The story, which appeared in the paper in July last year, said she exposed herself at a show in Hamburg; according to O'Riordan, the story was without

foundation and she had, in fact, been wearing knickers. *The Sport's* solicitor said they very much regretted the offence the article had caused and offered their apologies.

● **PULP's** support acts at the Chelmsford Hylands Park (August 17) and Warrington Victoria Park (18) concerts are almost all confirmed. As well as **CAST** and **SUPERGRASS**, announced two weeks ago, the other main stage acts are **GARY NUMAN**, **STEREOLAB**, **JONATHAN RICHMAN** and **THE LONGPIGS**. The second stage headliners are yet to be confirmed, though support bands include **HEAVY STEREO**, **FLUFFY**, **SUPER FURRY ANIMALS**, **DENIM**, **GORKY'S ZYGOTIC MYNCL** and one other opener to be confirmed.

Tickets are on sale now at £25 from usual agencies.

● **THE ALMIGHTY** have decided to split up, despite having just finished their new album, 'Just Add Life'. The band will play their planned UK dates and a tour of Japan, now retitled the Just Say Goodbye tour. "We had a band meeting last Thursday (March 28) where we agreed that we wanted to call it a day while we were at our peak," said Ricky Warwick. "Just Add Life" is the best album we've ever made. We think it's perfect, it's the album we always wanted to make and now that we've done it, it's time to do something new." Singer Ricky Warwick announced the decision at an impromptu gig at Nottingham's Rock City on Friday, March 29.



Dolores: offended by no-knickers jibe



Supergrass bassist Mickey Quinn gives his seal of approval to 'OXCD'

## Oxford fiesta

**SUPERGRASS** bassist **MICKEY QUINN** and ex-**RIDE** front man **MARK GARDENER** were among the hundreds of locals who turned up to support the launch of a compilation album, 'OXCD', featuring 13 of Oxford's most promising young bands.

The launch was held in Oxford's Cornmarket Street with an afternoon of performances in both the HMV and Virgin stores by featured bands, including Thurman, The Candyskins, The Daisies, The Bigger The God, Arthur Turners Lovechild? and Dustball.

Inspired by the current success of Oxford bands, most notably Supergrass and Radiohead, local label Rotator decided to put out the CD because, according to Rotator's Richard Cotton: "There's a real buzz at the moment, local bands are

outselling the bands who come in from outside. The idea is to have a snapshot of what's going on now with bands who are just putting their first singles out, and in six months' time it will probably become a collector's item."

Commenting on 'OXCD', Mickey Quinn said: "It's definitely a good thing. I know most of the bands 'cos they've either supported us or we've supported them at some point. There is no organised scene here and that's why it's such a healthy area, people play what they wanna play."

Former Ride keyboardist Nick Moorebath has been promoting bands in Oxford for the past six years and now runs the recently opened Zodiac club.

"There's been a massive difference in the past five

years," he explains. "There are now nearly 20 bands in Oxford who are signed, many to major record labels. There's more signed bands per population of the town than anywhere else in England."

Mark Gardener, whose band Ride was one of the first ever Oxford-based bands to sign to a major and gain national recognition, is now the so-called 'Godfather of the Oxford scene' and says of the time when Ride first started: "No-one was breaking out of Oxford then. It's easier for local bands now because A&R and press people are coming here and taking it seriously."

Supergrass had been expected to make an

impromptu appearance at the 'OXCD' launch, however, as Quinn explained. "Danny lives in London now and couldn't make it down, and Gaz had a bit of a heavy evening and couldn't get out of bed."

Quinn also dismissed recent rumours that Supergrass would be starring in a re-make of the hit '60s pop show *The Monkees*, under the direction of veteran Hollywood director, Steven Spielberg.

"The first thing (Spielberg) said when we met was, 'I don't just want to make another *Monkees*.' I guess it was all just because Gaz looks like a monkey," reasoned Quinn, "but that's as far as it goes, really. There's a lot of pitfalls involved, we're not actors we're musicians, so whatever we do we'll probably end up making a huge fiasco of it."

● **NEIL YOUNG** has been officially added to the bill for Phoenix Festival. Young will headline the main stage on July 19. Other headliners are **DAVID BOWIE**, **BJORK** and **SEX PISTOLS**. Tickets for Phoenix cost £65 and are available on 0171 344 0044.

## Dodgy new album out for the summer

**DODGY** have announced details of their third album, a new single and a UK tour.

The album is called 'Free Peace Sweet' and is due to be released on June 10.

It will be preceded by a single, 'In A Room', on May 27.

Dodgy's 'In A Room' tour includes dates at London Hanover Grand (May 14), Liverpool University (23), Glasgow Garage (25), Middlesbrough Crypt (26), Norwich Waterfront (27), Birmingham Foundry (28), Belfast Empire (31) and Dublin Mean Fiddler (June 1). They will announce details of a larger-scale tour soon.

Dodgy also appear at Leeds Sound City at Leeds University (Thursday, April 11) with support from Dubstar.

Lead singer Nigel said: "The album's taken us six months. I had a son, Marley, as well, on October 4, so I had two weeks off."

"I'm really pleased with the album. We tried to make it so that it takes in all sorts of moods: good ones, bad ones, waking up in the morning ones. It's more experimental than 'Homegrown'; there's more psychedelia and we're all singing on it."

According to Nigel, 'In A Room' was written about the lack of communication in society.

"We're all becoming insular as people with our Walkmans and home computers. It's especially bad in America, people just

don't talk to each other, people have stopped communicating."

Dodgy also plan to tour the UK during the summer with a big-top tent.

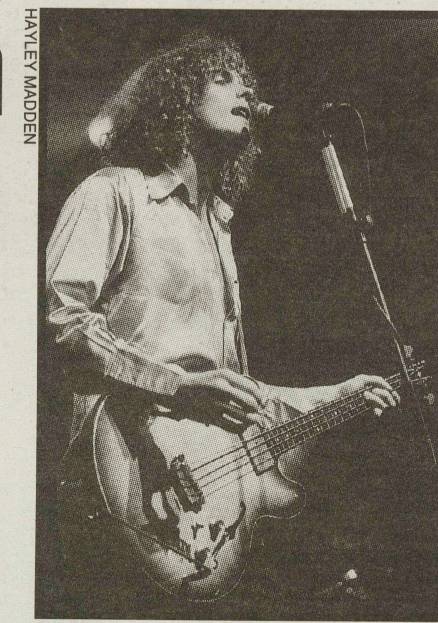
Nigel explained: "It's just a question of speaking to some councils. It's just that kind of feeling of being outside at a gig that we like. We'd like to get a 1,000-capacity tent and visit some of the smaller towns..."

● Dodgy have set up an information line on 0990 134154. Calls cost no more than 10p a minute.

● **SHED SEVEN** have added an extra date to their UK tour at London Kentish Town Forum

(May 4). They have also upgraded their Manchester University gig (April 26) to Manchester

Academy. The Sheds release a new single 'Bully Boy' on April 29.



Nigel Dodgy: getting in tents for summer!

## Pistols for Finsbury, definite

**SEX PISTOLS** have confirmed the line-up for their London Finsbury Park gig on June 23.

The full line-up is **IGGY POP**, **THE WILDHEARTS**, **THE BUZZCOCKS**, **SHANE MACGOWAN**, **60FT DOLLS**, **FLUFFY** and **THREE COLOURS RED**.

Tickets cost £22.50 and the gig starts at 12.30pm.

Johnny Rotten said: "The Sex Pistols never ended properly, it just fizzled out. So there's always going to be a dot, dot, dot. So many people have copied, imitated and fucked up what was pure and perfect, that it's about time that was readdressed. "I don't give a shit if no-one turns up, quite frankly, it's just for us as a band to say goodbye to each other properly."

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(l-r) Budgie, Siouxsie and Severin: not planning for the Come-Back-Tour-Syndrome we hope...

## Leaving Sioux soon?

**SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES** have decided to call it a day after 20 years together.

"After 20 years there are a lot of people reviving their flagging careers," Siouxsie told *NME*. "Really, this was a way of saying that we're going to go with some dignity."

The Banshees emerged from the late '70s punk upheavals, making their 1976 debut at the 100 Club punkfest with Sid Vicious on drums. The band quickly became established as the most uncompromising and original British band to emerge from the post-punk era.

"We never liked being called a punk band," Siouxsie said. "We didn't want people to have expectations about the music. Our tastes in music were always eclectic."

"If I think about it too long, I'm sad about it. It's not the happiest of news," said Banshees guitarist Severin. "But after every tour we have a postmortem and this time we were all agreed."

Siouxsie felt that the name was a dead weight around the band's neck.

"The name tended to just be taken for granted, it was the brick wall we always hit," she said. "It was almost like people felt we shouldn't be around."

Siouxsie and Budgie are preparing to work on a new **CREATURES** album while Severin is working on new songs. He also did the soundtrack for *Visions Of Ecstasy*, a film by Nigel Wingrove of cult video imprint Redemption. It is the only film ever to be refused a certificate on the grounds of blasphemy.

"The original 18 minutes are being expanded into an album," explained Severin. "The case for the film is going before the European Court Of Human Rights, so hopefully that will be released soon, too."

Siouxsie said that she had heard the **TRICKY/NEARLY GOD** version of the Banshees' 'Tattoo'.

"Maxinquaye" was my favourite album of last year," she declared. "Along with Radiohead and Garbage. Though I'm not much of a Rutles fan," she added wryly.

## Six-legged grunge machine



Vent: Miles Hunt (left) leads flue epidemic, possibly

**VENT**, Miles Hunt's new band have been playing small scale secret gigs around the country prior to recording their debut album with producer Steve Albini.

Vent made their debut at Reading Festival last year with a markedly different sound to **THE WONDER STUFF**.

"There are a few people coming along who would like to hear Wonder Stuff songs," Hunt told *NME*. "But after about 30 seconds I think it's pretty obvious that something like 'Size Of A Cow' isn't going to fit. I don't see The Wonder Stuff as a weight around my neck. I'm really proud of that stuff."

The three-piece have been previewing the 15 or so songs for the first album that Albini will produce.

"Albini wouldn't have been my choice if I was still in The

Wonder Stuff," said Hunt. "But we wanted to move on and do something a lot different, a lot more jarred, a lot more jagged. I also wanted to avoid the studio tricks that you learn over the years to tart up songs that aren't strong enough. You can put bits of tambourine on choruses to beef it up but somebody like Albini ain't gonna let us do that."

Hunt is looking at an August release, although he told *NME* that he has already booked more studio time later in the year to record a second album as quickly as possible.

Hunt and his manager have also started their own record imprint called Equal Vision to license some US bands as well as signing a few other bands.

**REDWOOD**, who have been playing with Vent on their club dates, are the first signings.

## Billing in the name of...

**RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE** have announced a UK tour, their first for two-and-a-half years.

The dates are at London Brixton Academy (May 11), Manchester Academy (12) and Glasgow Barrowlands (13).

Tickets cost £8 and go on sale on April 13. A full-length tour later in the year, and a Reading Festival appearance, are also likely. Their new album, 'Evil Empire', is released on April 15.

## nally

● **REM** have gone back to work on their new album, due out in the autumn. Tracks were aired during the band's '95 world tour. Tracks believed to be included are 'The Wake-up Bomb', 'Departure', 'Revolution', and 'Undertow'.

● **TRAINSPOTTING** author **IRVINE WELSH**'s new book, *Ecstasy*, will be published on June 6.

The book is a collection of three short stories and is linked by the notion of romantic, as well as chemical, ecstasy.

Along with traditional features of Welsh's writing, such as quotations from Iggy Pop and copious drug consumption, the final story, *The Undeclared: An Acid House Romance*, features an incident involving *NME*.

In it, the character Heather reads Paul Moody's **BLACK GRAPE** feature, buys the Black Grape album, then returns home to destroy her husband's copy of 'Brothers In Arms' by **DIRE STRAITS** in the microwave.

Moody said: "If my writing is the catalyst for a generation to obliterate middle-of-the-road rock dross from their lives, then so be it. A new day is dawning."

A Dire Straits' press officer declined to comment.

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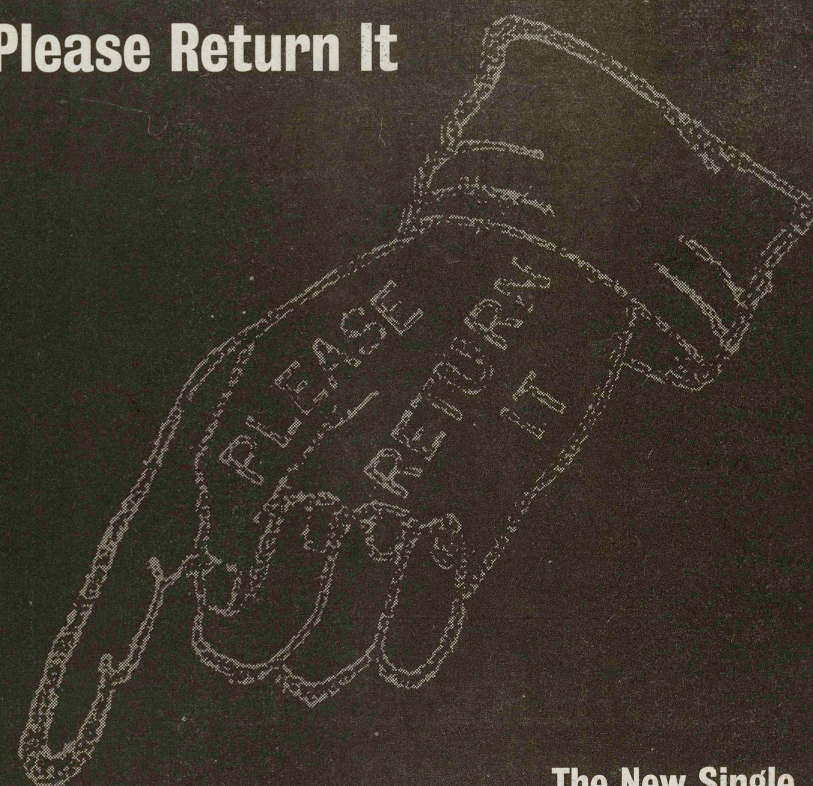
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