

Billy And Respectable People World according to Barp

By Billy Shaffer

George
George's life began at a very early age. He skinned both knees and a forehead in a bicycle mishap at age eleven. At age sixteen he lost his virginity and the keys to the station wagon. At nineteen, George entered a technical institute, the one you see in the commercials. When George was 25 he started his own TV and stereo repair shop, "George's TV and Stereo Repair." At 31, George had a wife, three kids, a garage door opener, and a Ford Bronco to wash in the driveway on the weekends.

When he was 42, George had a sprinkler system, a home computer, lower back pains and two kids that smoked pot.

At age 50, George bought a satellite dish, some rental property and opened a second shop, "George's TV and Stereo Repair II."

George is 55 now. He is a very happy man.

Hey-ho.

Moving

Moving takes boxes, large vehicles, damage deposit money and friends who will work for beer. Cartoonist Robert Crumb's father used to tell him "life is mostly hard work." He was actually talking about moving.

A few sickening people think that a new locale is exciting, stimulating even. The hell, I say. Give me a steady environment or give me death. New kitchens just mean new roaches. New neighbors just mean new, unfamiliar noises. Then there's keys, change-of-address cards and utility installation charges. Musical chairs is only fun if you're a grabby little kid and you win. Why don't we all just find a place we like and stay put? I will if you will. By the way, my phone number's still the same.

Hey-ho.

Love

"Love stinks."

— J. Geils Band

"Love is like a tractor."

— Sunworm,
Seattle new music band

"Love will tear us apart."

Joy Division,
English new music band

"Love is a hoopshot with a fancy title."

The Hoopshots,
Lincoln backup band

"Nuff said."

Hey-ho.

Artificial Intelligence

In case you haven't heard, computer scientists are developing machines that have the ability to reason. Already many computers have the capability of "randomness." Forget about Big Brother and 1984. If (when) someone teams up the randomness aspects with artificial intelligence talents, watch out. "Hal" in "2001" was pretty smart but these things with their automatic brains are gonna be able to put even abstract artists out of work. Move over, Jackson Pollock, that plotter's gaining on you.

Only time will tell if the machines will compose and create works that only other machines will comprehend or "appreciate," but the ramifications of artificial intelligence should be scrutinized as closely as the current advances in genetic engineering.

Given its own impetus and a nuclear power source, a computer with false smarts could become another Frankenstein's monster. But take heart, humans. They still haven't figured out a program to make computers break dance.

Hey-ho.

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by **Alfred Andriola**
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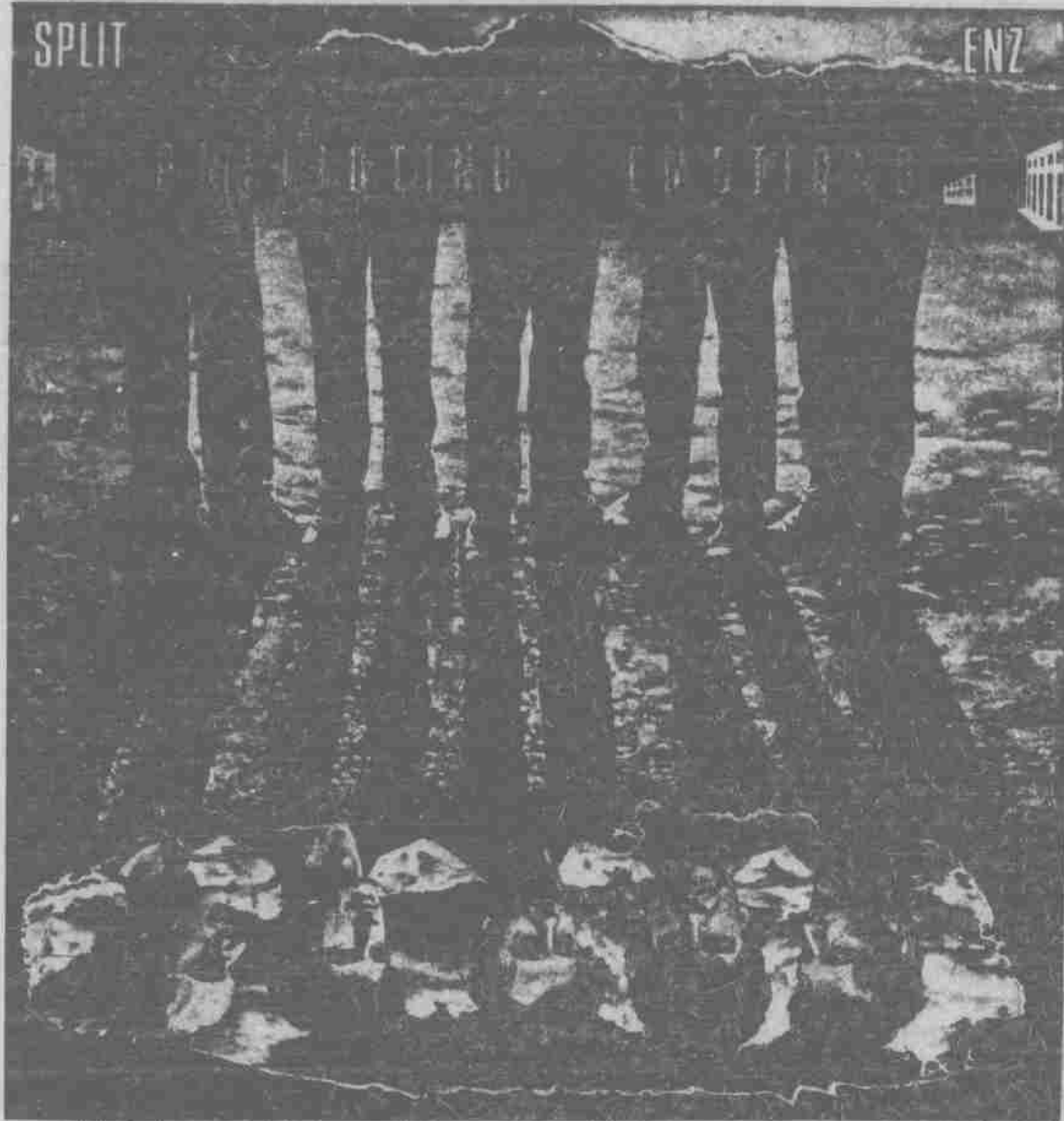
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Courtesy of A & M Records

Split Enz album reflects past

Review by Stephanie Zink

It has been two years since the New Zealand group Split Enz has released an album. Maybe they were afraid of what they might produce after the unforgettable classic "Time of Tide."

Split Enz really never needed to worry. "Conflicting Emotions" (A & M) will be a nice complement to its predecessors although it will probably never be as popular as "Waiata" or "Time and Tide."

The reason it won't be popular is probably the same reason the album works. "Conflicting Emotions" is a lot like the previous LPs, and yet so different. Their philosophies on this album aren't much different than before, but they are done in perhaps a much stronger manner — one which some people might not like.

"Split Enz" lyrics always blend adventure and fun with horrible images and have an attitude of "Isn't life strange?" The most obvious example is from "Bullet Brain" and "Cactus Head," a kind of "Dirty Creature" with a more human element. "Send a message to the brain-two men climbing down opposite poles/one with hair upon his face sprouting like the weeds on his soul/the other is a law unto himself his

brain is like a lump of steel./They'd love to break each other up into tiny pieces."

And then there are songs like the title cut "Conflicting Emotions" which takes on an almost supernatural quality and then quickly changes to an accapello rocker-almost sickeningly similar to that Mick and Michael duet "State of Shock" but this stuff is a lot better. The song actually sounds like its title — confused and jumbled.

There are also songs like "The Devil You Know" and a rhythmic anthem to today's life in the big city. "Live for the day we throw caution to the wind all we need is the courage to begin/We might get hurt but never be scared again at once to feel the pleasure of the pain."

"Conflicting Emotions" is basically a hodge-podge of different sounds and ideas, possibly helped out a lot by producers Eddie Rayner (ex-Split Enz member) and Hugh Padgham, who produced "Synchronicity" for the Police and "Time and Tide." Some of the former ideas from past Enz sessions and even a little bit of the "Synchronicity" ideas are on this disc. All of this contributes to make "Conflicting Emotions" an interesting reflection on Split Enz past and future.

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