

# Bands Allege Rough Treatment at Vic

A copy of a letter sent to the VUWSA Exec on Sunday 2 August by the Auckland based tour manager of the 'Screaming Blam-matic Roadshow'.

As you will remember, on July 16 1981 Blam Blam Blam, The Screaming Meemees, and The Newmatics played the Union Hall as part of The Screaming Blam-matic Roadshow Tour organised by The New Zealand Students Arts Council. We would like to express our extreme dissatisfaction at much of what occurred at Victoria University on that night and prior to that night.

We arrived in Wellington expecting accommodation to have been organised, in the form of billets, but found there was none and that no one was prepared to assist us in any way. Admittedly, we had told a person over the phone that we had use of a house in Titahi Bay, but nobody could reasonably expect 19 people to stay in one house. However, this problem was overcome but much worse was to come. We were aghast on the night to discover that you were selling beer in cans as they can, and were, used as projectiles. In future I would strongly recommend the use of some other sort of alcohol dispensing system.

Shortly after the dance began a group of bootboys arranged themselves on the balcony behind the bands and started to rain down cans, spit and beer on to the band. I asked several students in authority if they could be removed straight away and this was done. Soon after, these same individuals positioned themselves in front of the bands and continued their throwing, spitting and verbal abuse.

One of these guys had a very large chain with a piece of metal on the end, and this was confiscated by band members. Soon after a fight broke out between these hoodlums, members of the audience and the bands who were trying to protect themselves from cans and, worse, beer on the equipment (about \$30,000 worth which could have been destroyed).

The bootboys then went to retrieve their chain off the stage but two bouncers grabbed the guy and chain and threw him out, after fairly violent resistance.

The most amazing thing then happened. The guy, who obviously wanted to hurt people, was let straight back in. This was about the last that was seen of the bouncers, who disappeared whenever trouble seemed imminent. The only other time I saw them was when they were calmly watching about eight of these guys breaking the legs off chairs to use as weapons.

The rest of the night was a brawl, with the bands having to defend themselves and their gear because nobody else would.

I spent well over an hour screaming at varsity organisers, who's only response was "we can't touch them, it's assault and we'll get six years in jail if we do...". Those are the actual words of one of your people. Well what the hell do you think those guys were doing?

The Screaming Meemees were forced to finish six songs into their set because of this, and were met by a hail of fists and boots as they left the stage. And then some of you people had the nerve to accuse us of starting the trouble. I suppose that's an easy way to worm out of any responsibility, but the responsibility is yours and we can only state how disgusted we were at the whole affair.

You had every opportunity to put on something worthwhile. NZSAC are not at all to blame as their organisation was top notch, but you people stuffed it up. We intend to recommend to every Auckland band that they give Victoria University a wide berth, and will issue a statement to the press to that effect.

10/8/81  
Simon Grigg  
Tour Manager

SALIENT 10 August 1981