the taciturn Mancunians less moody and more responsive? Cries and whispers by CATH CARROLL. Shadow play by KEVIN CUMMINS

NING, ROB
's manager,
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Than You Think' about
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e a popular theme . . .?

deep business?

"Sometimes I'm incredibly deep, mostly I'm not," states Barney.

Someone else volunteers: "Everyone thought Ian (Curtis) was incredibly 'deep'. He wasn't. Most of the time he was a complete tosspot . . . well, not a tosspot, but an average bloke.

"The words must come from somewhere, and if you want to convey something, you don't go, My stomach's a bit off today, I think I'll write something about that."

There must be a bit of romance in the boy after all. Those words in 'Sub-Culture', their new single, flooded back to me at this stage: *"These crazy words of mine/So wrong they could be right."* It must be horribly tedious for the group to suffer these oft-repeated probings, but apart from those who seek to suckle on the signficance of the band's every bottom burp, there are those of us who appreciate a little background colour. Barney banishes all hope of this by announcing that when he is not playing with the group, he is lying down. Fair enough.

Without wishing to be too predictable, it's time to cue noises of Music Hall gaiety and consider the long-muttered accusation of the flirting with Nazi chic. Were they leading the media another merry dance?

"I thought it was the media having fun at our expense."

"There's no grounds for it."

"It's not as if we know any French priests!"

"That man's a chiropodist!"

Ask a bloody silly question . . .

I'D EARLIER ASKED THEM

why they hadn't done interviews for a while, especially with the *NME*?

"The honest answer to that is I don't know," replied Barney. Rob pointed out that they had been doing loads of interviews, especially abroad. Surveying the media, this is indeed true and has been for weeks. Yet around the time 'The Perfect Kiss' came out, Gretton was saying that New Order did not do interviews. Admittedly for some of this time they were in Japan, but they would not even consider talking to journalists who offered to fly over there. Though it's not particularly principled to make deductions behind their backs, there is nothing else to do since they have had little to say for themselves.

Factory released 'The Perfect Kiss' at the same time as 'Low Life'. During the life of 'The Perfect Kiss' they were not doing interviews. The single did not sell very well, maybe because the LP also contained the opus. An un-souped up version of 'Sub-Culture' appeared on the LP too.

Money has to be made and the sordid business of promotions – and that includes chatting to the jolly old press – has to be undertaken to shift those units, which in New Order's case, deserve to be shifted; 'Sub-Culture' is a dandy Euro-disco toe-tapper. Maybe some of Barney's indifference comes from the fact that he would really rather be lying down than discussing the meaning of life with everyone and their terrapin.

Of course, the band are all very charming when they are not being asked to account for themselves. Peter Hook, who once threatened to punch the man from *Sounds* in an interview a couple of months ago, is most gentlemanlike. Steven Morris is helpful and dippily sociable. Gillian is fairly quiet and manager Rob makes several useful contributions. In fact, New Order are pleasant people – but they don't seem to want to talk about New Order.

OH WELL, LET'S TRY THE

wonderful world of politics. New Order have done many benefits this year, for the unemployed, the Mexican earthquake fund, the miners . . . How do they decide on which ones to do?

"We do the ones who ask us first. They tend to come in waves. We were the first to do a miners' benefit. We didn't agree politically on the issue, but this particular benefit was staged by someone we know. The money wasn't to go to the miners themselves, but to make a film to redress the media imbalance over the issue which was in favour of the government. It was an interesting point."

"I had an interesting thought last night," volunteers Barney, softly. "If it wasn't for the horrors of World War Two, we'd all be dead now . . . it put the Russians off nuclear war. All those little old Russian ladies."

Gurgles of laughter follow this insoluble pancake. Rob, typically, makes a move in the direction of logic, bless him.

"Then it can be argued that nuclear war will save the world."

Silence. A small voice says "That's got you all thinking, hasn't it?"

Yes, it has. It set *me* thinking about why Barney was being so deliberately obstructive, nonchalant and now indulgent. They have been doing enough interviews for him to have recovered from any nervousness.

Back to politics. The Duvet Brothers concocted a video to go with 'Blue Monday' which was included on an Enemy Within compilation, whose proceeds were destined to go to striking miners and their families. Did you give your consent to this, since you say that you don't all agree on the political issue here?

"We gave our consent after The Duvet Brothers had done the video . . . they ripped off a home video that Steven (Morris) had done."

The accusation about the video didn't seem particularly serious, by the way. Don't *any* of you want to hop up onto a soap box and deliver your unique world views?

"Barney's already been on his!"

"I prefer the politics of music to the politics you're talking about," states Hook.

LET'S BOARD THE SUBJECT OF

Manchester's 'scene'.

"What Manchester scene?"

"He's part of the Macclesfield scene, aren't you, Barney?"

"After touring, the last thing you want to do is go out and see bands . . ."

What about the way t
gone. Some of your profi
operation?

"The idea was that th
the people that came. It'
Manchester that it didn'
notorious ex-local prom
Nico) tried it for years, b
regular venue. The Haci
but people just weren't i

Rob, who is still involv
club to some degree judg
helped bring bands thro
James, The Inca Babies.
NME the other week, ab
totally out to lunch! Nep
quote from Roger Eagle
International where he s
make Manchester 'danc
years. The Hacienda is a
have always danced. It s
but became a dance club

"The place gave the o
take the initiative, but i
thought 'It's Factory, th
won't let us . . .'"

Is it true, Peter Hook,
a bouncer during a Jesu
there?

"Yeah, I told you they
help!"

One hears you did a v

"Yeah, I threw the sin

"Shhhh! Shhhhh!" c

Rob takes up the subj

"What they are doing
McGhee is doing now, is
scene is a lot heavier no
Pistols started. There's
more violence at footba
attracting that crowd . .

BY NOW THE BA

warmed up to those O
they were being so coy
beings with the trial th

"We went to do som
Their way of working is
were in the studio at nig
in the morning to do int
there had day jobs too!
we were walking into w
to explain really basic t
in recording."

For some reason, the
China where they enjoy
'Isolated Mountain Hot
name and you can hear
voice.

"There was no street
frozen food . . ."

". . . And all the food
snakes, a mongoose. Th
off in front of you."

Steven was still suffe
the fodder.

"We just got this sou
dishwater with a bit of p

The entire room bew
mattresses, the All Chin