

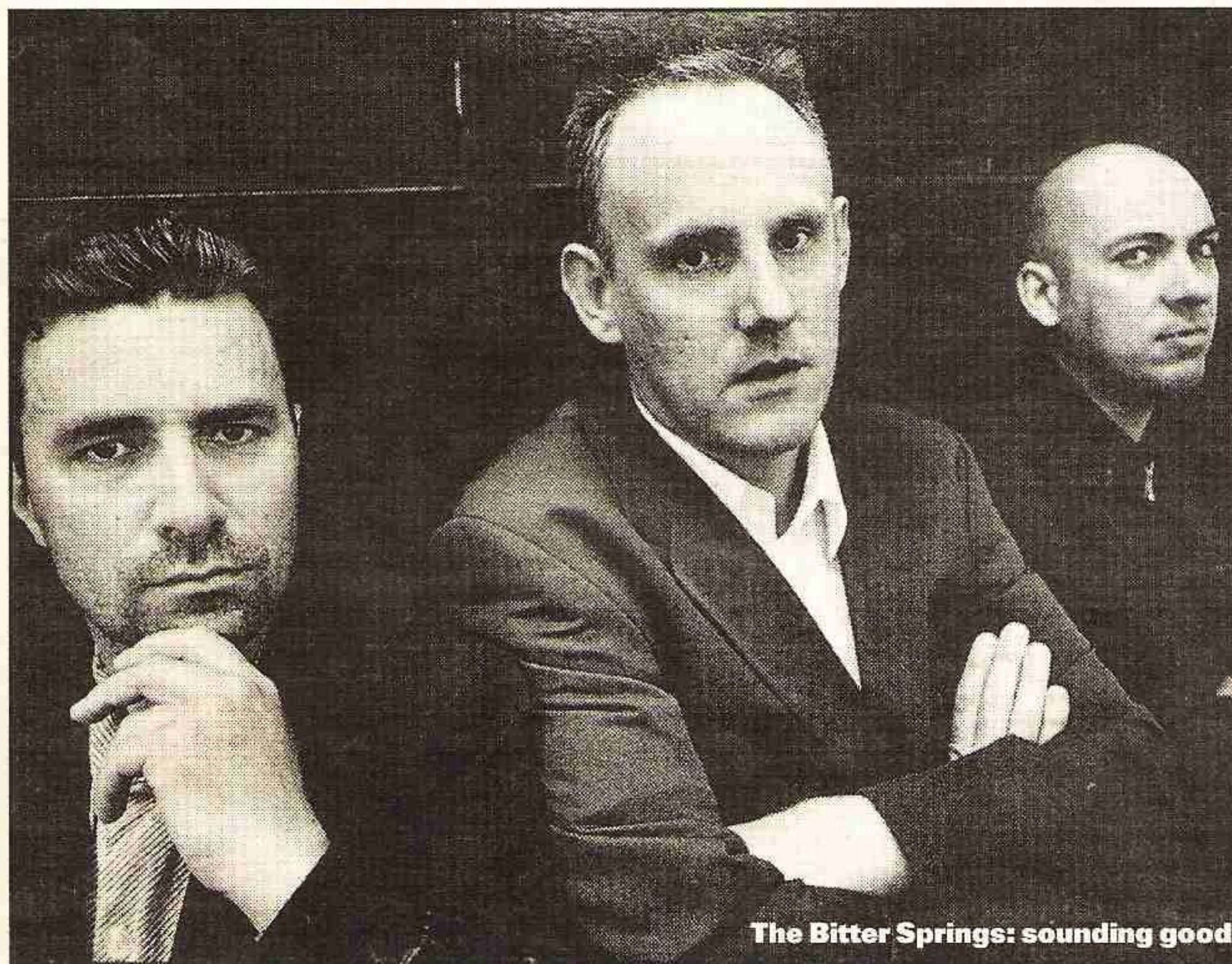
# Melody **Maiko**



THE

## WEEKLY SESSION

Going deaf for a living with **STEVE LAMACQ**



The Bitter Springs: sounding good

**A** LIKEABLY cynical seven-inch turned up last week from those persistent blighters The Bitter Springs – who, in the nicest possible way, are a Band Who Won't Go Away. A little like the Beatnik Filmstars and 70 Gwen Party – two more Bands Who Won't Go Away – the Springs have spent most of their life on the periphery of indie-pop, making unswervingly acid-tongued records which probably sell 1,000 copies in France. They don't tilt the earth's axis, but somehow it's nice having them – and their wry, wiry output – around.

And anyway, every so often they turn in a wizard, rough-edged record, like this latest Bitter Springs single called "It's Business". It's on Wurlitzer Jukebox Records, and it's the first Springs single which John Peel has played. It'll doubtless sell in Paris. "Oh, thanks a lot," says band frontman Simon, sounding, more resigned than bitter on the phone. "Actually, it is amazing that we've been going so long, because we haven't really changed anything. Apart from the name – and that seemed to work. The Springs used to be The Last Party who also released some splendid stuff in their time. Not only that but they were responsible for the only gig I've ever been to where journalists really did outnumber punters. It was at the New Pegasus in north London. Myself and a fellow journalist Simon Williams arrived about 20 minutes before the band were due on, to find that we were the only people there. Well, apart from the guy on the door, but he didn't count. Ten minutes before showtime a genuine fan turned up and paid to get in.

The Party finally swung into action as we arranged a line of three chairs in front of the stage and got comfy. And yes, we gave them an encore, and they returned the applause by buying all three of us a drink. I guess if you don't give up after a gig like that, then you'll probably never go away. Bless 'em.