

The House of Love *June 5-10*

The House of Love are not very different from Echo and the Bunnymen. What they have to their advantage is that they are extant. Desperate for an accessible torch-bearer, 'radicals' have clasped Guy Chadwick's workman-like wisdom to their bosoms, then hidden behind large rocks when the first major label single 'Never' turned out to be the Mighty Lemon Drops with David Bowie on vocals (and rather entertaining for all that). As Creation's great white hope, they have achieved a certain resuscitation of guitar trickery and enigmatic lyricism on their derivative debut LP and the inspired 'Destroy the Heart' single. Now that the pressures and the production values are on, one can only hope that the waif-like doesn't get stifled by the wage-earning. Live, they've been known to rattle through 'I Wanna Be Your Dog' and to reach the dizzy plateaux of a slightly more ordered Television. Will a week at the ICA mean they become honorary members? Will the experience urge them to come up with song titles that don't involve the words 'fire', 'heart' and 'kwe'? CR

20/20

Jun

1989