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# RECORD REVIEW 1880

**Levitation — Need For Not** (Capitol) — Proving there was no love lost in The House of Love, guitarist Terry Bickers left that British band after bickering with leader Guy Chadwick to form his own band, Levitation. Bickers' new group debuted with a recent mini-album that was generally not well received, even by those who appreciate the fine pop meanderings and occasional haughty attitude of Chadwick's band.

Levitation's first full LP, "Need For Not," continues Bickers' distancing from his old band, as his sound has become harder-edged than the House's sound. While Chadwick concentrates on setting an eerie mood with his deep voice, catchy but disturbing melodies and richly elevated lyrics, Bickers and his five-piece band go about setting a similar but louder tone with ripping guitars and crashing drums.

Bickers handles the singing and strumming, though his voice is a distant second talent-wise. He has a slightly nasal tone not unlike Mark Burgess, who led the '80s most underrated band, the dearly departed Chameleons, though Burgess and his Ray Davies-esque voice had a better way of squeezing subtle emotion out of the most unobtrusive songs than does Bickers.

In fact, one of the top tracks on "Need For Not," "Smile," echoes The Chameleons' better work as it winds to a guitar-filled crescendo. Another good tune here is "Hangnail," which builds with a spooky harpsichord riff by keyboardist Robert White, followed closely by smash-bang guitars from Bickers and fellow guitarist Christian Hayes.

Nearly all of the remaining seven songs on "Need For Not," some of which were heard on the recent EP (including its title track, "Coterie"), tug at the edges of the sonic-am neo-psychedelia movement now swe England, though more from the '60s He school of psych-rock than The House of which borrows most heavily from the '70s school of Velvet Underground psyc rock.

In a taste test, four out of five fans prefer The House of Love (Chadwick rebuilt House just released a fine four CD). But the good news is that the Chad Bickers split hasn't ended one good ban created two — kind of like nuclear fi though with all the energy and none radioactive side-effects. Either is a tre those willing to leave the atomic ground z popular music to be challenged by intel but exciting rock.

*— By Brent Hallenbeck, staff writer.*