

LATE NEWS



The Rezillos

The Canadian Justice Ministry intends to appeal against the light sentence given to Rolling Stone **Keith Richards** for possession of heroin. The one year's probation, together with an order to give a benefit concert for the blind, was considered too lenient by many Canadians who flooded the Attorney General's office with protesting mail. It's understood that Richards could have received up to a seven-year sentence... a coroner's report has ruled that **Keith Moon's** death was not suicide. They determined that Moon died after taking thirty-two anti-alcoholism tablets... **Sid Vicious**, currently out on bail awaiting trial, is searching for musicians to back him. The former Sex Pistols bassist has also been bad-mouthing his one-time colleagues for the treatment meted out to him on the ill-fated tour which saw the breakup of the Pistols. Says Vicious: "I was dope sick and they done their best to break me. They wanted me to kick while I was playing. It just wasn't possible"... meanwhile relations between Johnny Rotten's new band **Public Image** and their record company, Virgin Records, are believed to be shaky at best. Seems that Lydon (nee Rotten) sent Virgin's order for tickets for the band's debut gigs back to them with a suggestion that they queue for tickets like everyone else... its now confirmed **Elvis Costello's** third album will be released in January. Title is *Armed Forces*... **Roxy Music** have definitely reformed and joining existing members Bryan Ferry, Phil Manzanera, Andy Mackay and Paul Thompson is band The Vibrators. It's believed a keyboard

player will be invited in to replace the now unavailable Eddie Jobson. Some rumours suggest that Eno is in line for the job. The Roxy Music reunion album is now completed and set for release early next year. Thereafter a world tour taking in the South Pacific is planned... WEA Records in New Zealand have picked up the rights to the Sire label which means that the second **Talking Heads** album, *More Songs About Buildings and Food*, and **The Ramones** live album, *Road To Ruin*, are now assured of pre-Christmas release here. The debut album from successful Scottish band **The Rezillos** will hit the streets early in the new year... **The Eagles** are all set to compete with Boney M in the Christmas single stakes. The Eagles, however, have staked their fortune on a less obviously commercial product than their competitors. The Eagles' single is in fact a remake of the old Charles Brown blues "Please Come Home for Christmas" but is backed up on the flip side by a new Frey/Henley composition "Funky New Year". The B side also features the vinyl debut of Glenn Frey on saxophone. Both tracks were recorded with new bass player Tim Schmit and will not be featured on the group's album due for March or April release... **Bruce Springsteen** is believed to be in conflict with his producer/manager Jon Landau as to whether his next release should be a studio or a live recording. CBS and Landau favour a live album, Springsteen favours going back into the studio. Either way Springsteen plans to record the oldie "It's My Life" on his next studio set... **Mi-sex**,

NZ band based in Sydney, seem to be making good progress there. Now settled in, they've acquired a manager and a strong following. Their only NZ single has attracted interest there and the band have ordered 500 copies to be sent over... Peter Asher is to produce the next **Bonnie Raitt** album... **Todd Rundgren** is currently at work producing newbies from **Meatloaf** and the **Tubes**... **Paul McCartney** has now left Capitol and EMI and thus a greatest hits package covering the years 1971-1978 is set for December release... **UK**, the super-group formed by four British star musicians, has now lost drummer Bill Bruford and guitarist Allan Holdsworth. However the remaining members — John Wetton and Eddie Jobson — have replaced Bruford with ex-Zappa drummer Terry Bozio and are currently at work on their second album... **Bay City Roller's** singer Les McKown has been fired from the tartan laddies for his wayward activities with the ladies.



SOLO RIDDELL OUT

It's ironic that for a name as well-known throughout New Zealand as Alastair Riddell, the touring he's undertaken in the past four months has been the most protracted live work he's ever done.

As Alastair admits, "I've only ever been a television artist in this country and you can suffer from that. People just get sick of seeing Alastair Riddell popping up on television once every two months."

Riddell's manager Patrick Cox frames the problem like this: "The nature of TV is that it's an electronic medium, it's untouchable. Because of the presentation he gave on TV, it made him just that little bit untouchable."

The return of Alastair Riddell is, however, a message that many Aucklanders apparently feel they've heard once too often. Auckland's cynicism towards the Alastair Riddell Band has meant that the band have deliberately avoided the city. Instead they've set about establishing themselves throughout the rest of New Zealand. A strategy that Alastair assures me has been remarkably successful.

The tactics are, as Riddell puts it, "to get the whole of New Zealand used to the idea that Alastair Riddell can perform live and do it well." Cox explains it as showing that Alastair is "flesh and blood". This approach extends beyond Riddell's return to the boards. It involves something of an image change too. He now dresses onstage in jeans and tank tops, sand shoes and short hair.

The tour is also to promote what Alastair calls his debut album. A self-titled album that's due for imminent release. Those of you with longer memories may recall the Space Waltz LP that came in the wake of Riddell's overnight success with "Out in the Streets" four years ago. But that's a project Riddell recalls as a "pretty rushed and confused affair".

"I put a lot of time into writing the songs but what came out was pretty disillusioning. That was one of the things that got me disillusioned about rock music that long ago." But along with his image change, Riddell has given up carping about the New Zealand music scene.

The new album was recorded over more than a year at Auckland's Mandrill studios and includes all Alastair's "solo" singles — "The Wonder Ones", "What Good Does It Do Me", "Smile" and "Through Eyes of Love". "It's a mixed bag," Alastair confesses. "I wrote a lot of songs and that's what it is, it's not a concept album. It's a beginning, a restarting and that's the way I feel about it."

It's a tribute to Riddell's creative energy that he's already written the material for the next album and chosen the title. But for now he's content to know that he's winning an audience and to hope that this audience also buys records.

Alastair Dougal

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