

Rumours

UK & USA

All **Stevie Wonder** records have been banned on government TV and radio by the South African Broadcasting Corporation following Wonder's dedication of his recently-won Oscar to **Nelson Mandela**. The dedication came on the heels of Wonder's arrest at anti-apartheid demonstrations in New York ... the **ZTT** book about **Frankie**, *And Then There Came A Bang* has, rather predictably, been banned by its distributors, because of what they considered indecent content. Next book planned is the **Art Of Noise** tome, *Daft As A ...*. Latest ZTT artist is torch singer **Anne Pigalle**, with single 'He Stranger' ... latest **Bowie** film role is a cameo as a hired killer in new **John Landis** film *Into the Night*. His role features a knife fight with yer actual **Carl Perkins**. Meanwhile, the Actor is threatening another world tour in 1986 ... the **Rolling Stones** plan to begin another tour

later this year, after the release of their new LP, currently being recorded in Paris, in August ... footage of the **Velvet Underground** has been conveniently unearthed in New York to go with the likewise unearthed lost Velvets tapes which make up the new **V.U.** LP. The film is to be shown on Brit. TV ... the new lineup for Nick Kent's **Subterraneans**, which includes our own former **Miltowns**, **Kelly** and **Syd** recently supported the Smiths at the Hammersmith Odeon ... and just who is this **Bryn** in the new **Damned** lineup? The Captainless **Damned** have a new single, 'Grimly Fiendish' ... dub crazy **Lee Perry** has again (with his new single 'Judgement In A Babylon') accused Island Records boss **Chris Blackwell** of witchcraft and of causing the death of **Bob Marley** through evil practises. Blackwell's not saying anything ... **Squeeze** have reformed with their original lineup, apart from new bassist Keith Wilkinson. First single is 'The Last Time Forever' ... **Black Uhuru** will carry on despite the loss of frontman **Michael Rose** to a solo career. His replacement will be **Junior Reid** ... **BRAFA** (British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal) is the latest musical endeavour in aid of Ethiopia. More than 200 musicians and singers, including Mikey Dread, Dennis Brown, Aswad, etc, got together one day in February to record 'Let's Make Africa Green Again' ... the new

Graham Parker band is the **Shot** and it includes the venerable **Brinsley Schwartz** on lead guitar ... **Brix Smith**, wife of fun-loving **Mark E** has recorded her first solo single. It's a version of an old **Strawberry Alarm Clock** number, 'Incense and Peppermints' ... will the **New York Dolls** reform for a few gigs? ... **Stewart Copeland** continues to strenuously deny reports that the **Police** have split for good. Meanwhile, he's completed his own film, *The Rhythmist* and the first single is 'Koteja', a reworking of an old Zaire folk song ... **Pete Best**, the man who was nearly a Beatle, at last tells his own story in his new book, *Beatle! The Pete Best Story* ... so-called "writer" Tony Parsons has landed a deal for several books with Virgin Books ... **Bob Geldof** has his second film role (his first was as Pink in *The Wall*) in *The Hustler*, the tale of a snooker hustler ... **Robert 'Bumps' Blackwell**, who got Little Richard's hit career off the ground as a producer and later worked with such as Sam Cooke and Quincy Jones at seminal stages of their careers, died recently ... and, after 16 years, **Dr Hook** are planning to split.

Albums: Dire Straits *Brother In Arms*, Luther Vandross *The Night I Fell In Love*, Chaz Jankel *Looking At You*, Yello *Stella*, Gary Numan *White Noise*, Frank Zappa *Thing-Fish*, Gary Glitter *Boys Will Be Boys*, Jonzun Crew *Down To*

Earth, Marc Riley and the Creepers *Fancy Meeting God*. New Style Council LP due in June. Singles: Simple Minds 'Don't You (Forget About Me)' (from *Breakfast Club* film soundtrack), Bronski Beat and Marc Almond 'I Feel Love' (completely new version), ABC 'Be Near Me', Jesus and Mary Chain 'Never Understand' (now on Blanco Y Negro label), JoBoxers 'Is This Really The First Time', Cocteau Twins 'Aikea-Guinea' (EP), Billy Bragg 'Between the Wars' (EP).

Christchurch

In a sharp turn around of events, drummer **Stevie Birss** has left the **Dance Exponents** after only two live appearances. The Exponents currently plan to use session drummers for touring and recording, rather than adding another member ... meanwhile, Birss has wasted no time in forming a new band with fellow ex-White Boy Kevin Stokes (guitar) and Wee Rob Failsafe (bass and guitar). They will debut soon ... and long time stalwart of the local music scene, **Mark Brooks**, (Vauxhalls, Newtones and latterly the White Boys) has also put together a new project which is apparently "heavier than the White Boys". Joining Brooks are Brent (from Street of Flowers and the Vibes) on drums and Jamie from the Venetians on guitar. Members of the **AEB** were over the moon when some 400 peo-

ple turned up to see Horizin and No Idea at a Dole Day Rage at the Gladstone, because of your support they have many more similar gigs planned ... the debut LP from **Southern Front** is on the racks in your favourite rekid shop now! Southern Front recently pulled off a minor coup in having one of the tracks, 'Southern Comfort' chosen as the theme music for *Viewfinder*. LP can be got for a mere \$8.50 from Failsafe, Box 3003 ChCh ... the Flying Nun compilation is now not called *Bison*, but *Tuatara*, which seems to make more sense ... Westport has a new music venue put together by the **Buller Unemployment Collective**. The **Chills** ... and speaking of the land's favourite band, the Chills played to packed houses in ChCh over Easter. But the real surprise came from **Sneaky Feelings** who must now be a force to be reckoned with, both nationally and internationally ... the next Sneakies single will be 'Husband House', which they recorded recently in Auckland. They will tour to promote it in two or three months.

Recent visitors to Dunedin have been **Now We Are Six** and the **Punch**, who supported the **Wastrels**. The Punch have various Exponents tour support slots and plan some gigs at local high schools. Will gangly Geoff Hopkins become a heart-throb? ... former bass and sax player for onetime groovers My Three Sons,

Deb Frame, has joined **Wayward Witches** and they plan a North Island tour ... found recently at Lyttleton's low-key venue the British were promising four-piece **Vague Secrets** ... also appearing there have been new heavy-ish ensemble the **Allies** and the **Skeptics**, who were forced to cancel their Gladstone dates following a petty and meaningless disagreement with the local constabulary over words on one of their posters. Because of this we were forced to miss the future of rock 'n' roll.

Maiden China have been recording at Auckland's Mandrill Studios and have some live work set up ... the *Shazam* concert in the ChCh Town Hall will feature mainly NI bands; **Katango**, **Politicians** and **Grey Parade**, with either the **Chills** or the **Punch** making up the lineup. It's on May 22. A *RWP* concert at the same venue is planned for Sept 11 ... the on-again-off-again career of the **Back Door Blues Band** would appear to be on again, with new members joining original Ted Clarke and Aynsley Day. They have a South Is tour planned for May-June ... **Louie and the Hotsticks**, who have shown a lot of courage in moving from the Marine, have an LP planned, but we hear they need a lot of new material first.

New EP from the **Bats** is due out in a month or so ... also ex-

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