

# Rumours

## UK & USA

**Echo and the Bunnymen** back in action after their year-long rest. On a quiet little Scandanavian tour they've been slotting in a 45 min set of covers of the nature of the Doors, Velvets, Talking Heads, Modern Lovers and even Pickett's 'In the Midnight Hour' ... **Annie Lennox** has split amicably with her husband, German Krishna follower Rada Raman. Voice troubles mean no **Eurythmics** performances for some time but she's done a six-page fashion spread for Italian *Vogue* and a small part in the movie *Independence* ... meanwhile, other half **Dave Stewart** is producing the debut **Feargal Sharkey** album. Feargal's next single, 'Loving You', is, however produced by Queen's Roger Taylor and Dave Richards ... **Tony James**, once of Gen X, is back with the big-haircut/big-hype **Sigue Sigue Sputnik** ... cult Melbourne band of '78-79, **Crime and the City Solution**, has reformed in UK with original singer **Simon Bonney** joined by ex **Birthday Party** people **Roland Howard** and **Mick Harvey**. Roland's brother **Harry** and former Swell Map, **Epic Soundtracks**.

Debut EP out ... everyone who was ever in **Motorhead** was on stage for a ear-shattering version of the theme tune at the band's recent Hammersmith Odeon 10th anniversary concert ... Smiths' **Morrissey** and Dead Or Alive's **Pete Burns** to record together? ... new **Ramones** single, 'Bonzo Goes To Bitburg' is about **Reagan's** bungled German visit this year ... **Adam Ant** back with **Tony Visconti**-produced 'Vive Le Rock' 45 and LP to follow ... **Afrika Bambaataa** has signed with EMI to record an album which will feature collaborations with the likes of gospelier **Dizzy Hites**, UK industrial funksters **Chakk** and an unnamed punk group, possibly **Crass** ... **Wire** reformed recently for a one-off gig but left options open for further performances ... ex Clash drummer **Topper Headon** is back after beating his drug addiction, with a new single, a version of Gene Krupa's 'Drumming Man' ... **Boy George** and **Marilyn** are reportedly recording demos together in Switzerland ... speculation that **Marc Almond** will work with the remaining members of **Bronski Beat** as a permanent replacement for Jimmy Sommerville, because he enjoyed doing the re-recording of Donna Summer's 'I Feel Love' so much. The Bronskis are also try-

ing to buy the rights to the song so that the Godstruck Summer, who has been denouncing homosexuality as wicked and sinful, won't get any money from sales of their single ... **Jerry Dammers** and **Robert Wyatt** plan to record a single to benefit **SWAPO** ... **Stanley Clarke Band** have released a single called 'Born In the USA', complete with **Bruce**-spoof marketing campaign ... new **Bowie** movie is *Labyrinth* ... **John Bonham's** 22-year-old daughter **Debbie** has launched into a singing career with her debut single 'Sanctuary'.

**Albums:** Nona Hendryx *The Heat*, Propaganda *A Secret Wish*, Gregory Isaacs *Private Beach Party*, Nick Cave *The Firstborn Is Dead*, Monochrome Set *The Lost Weekend*, Robert Fripp *Network*, Positive Noise *Distant Fires*, Four Tops *Magic*, Marilyn *Despite Straight Lines*, Subway Sect *Holiday Hymn*, David Sylvian *The Holy Blood Of Saints and Sheep*, Residents *The Census Taker*, Tuxedomoon *Holy Wars*, David Grant *Hopes and Dreams*.

## Christchurch

**Ezzy Promotions** are no longer, with Mark Cassin and his team finally calling it quits soon after the Johnnys hit town ... Lee Hubber and his **Secret Agency** continue

booking bands and things are looking up now that they have opened the Zetland to take over where the Star and Garter and Gladstone left off. Familiar face or two behind the bar at the Zetland too ... changes at the Gladstone include **Speaking Jivanese** as resident band for now. The hotel is handling its own bookings. Biggest rumour at present is the possibility of Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers hitting the Gladstone later this year ... the **Marine** lounge bar has been closed for a while after a fire destroyed a large section of the tavern. Management hope to have things back to normal soon.

By the time you read this the reformed **Pop Mechanix** will have played their first gigs in town ... and was that **Phil Judd** seen wandering the streets of Christchurch sporting a new haircut recently? ... new bands around ChCh include the **Where's Your Tie Band**, **Rockaholics**, **Fat Sally**, **Brixton Boys**, **Murder Inc.** and **Backlash**. **Louie and the Hotsticks**, **Vague Secrets** and **Rockaholics** have all been busy recording ... ChCh's answer to the Band Aid single, 'Give Them Life' by **Rise** selling well and "bubbling under" the Top 50 ... **Little Egypt** have had some changes which include three members of the defunct Roco

Coca taking over bass, drums and keyboards ... the **Minit Men** have had a setback with three of the five deciding to try something else, leaving Astrid (bass) and Dave (guitar) to pick up the pieces with soundman Dave taking over drums. Any interested vocalists can contact Astrid at 382-908.

Telethon weekend saw plenty of action for local punters; the State Trinity had a host of bands playing from 10pm Sat to 10pm Sun, while the Gladstone held a similar rockathon running most of Saturday and the Youth Centre held a smaller affair in the old Cinerama building.

**John Greenfield**

## Palmerston North

**Max Satchell**, formerly of the Blue Meanies, now manages the local EMI Shop. Vinyl junkies take note that this shop is now linked direct to London's Rough Trade distribution centre by telex ... PN expatriates, the **Skeptics** have recently recorded a new album, *Ponds*, at Frontier Studios in Wellington. To be released on **Ulp** records, with possible distribution being arranged for West Ger-

many and Australia.

**Meltdown** Recording Studios have been busy lately with demos recorded by **Dosage B** and the **Remarkables**. Dosage B release the fruits of these recordings on a five-track EP entitled *Excuse Me Big Nose*. Recorded with assistance from local radio 2XS, the EP will be released on Meltdown Records with distribution by Jayrem ... the Remarkables will venture to Wellington to record an EP at Crescendo mid-July.

**Thin Red Line** embark on a North Island tour, playing at the more alternative venues. First priority however will be recording at Mascot Studios with Phil Yule ... winners of Massey Battle of the Bands in March, the **Mannequins**, have split, lack of members being the main reason! ... **Curfew**, **Pink Pills For Pale People**, **First Affair** and **Nameless Face** have all also added their names to this list of bands no longer in existence, possible a lack of venues being a key factor ... two recently formed bands are **Three Leaning Men** and the **End**, with Paul Campbell (ex-KD3) on guitar.

**D.W.L. Reid**



Is this man's dress sense offensive?



# Dobbyn: Finally Cleared

Dave Dobbyn has returned to Sydney cleared of charges laid in connection with the Queen St riot in December last year. One charge of using insulting language was dismissed early in the trial but the case continued on a charge of offensive behaviour likely, in the circumstances, to provoke violence to start or continue. In effect, as *Eyewitness News* reported on the night of his acquittal, Dave Dobbyn was accused of starting the Queen St riot.

The police case was based on statements the musician allegedly made from the Aotea Square stage when he saw police in riot gear moving into position at the back of the crowd. The prosecution contended that his motives for making the remarks were irrelevant because the response from a significant part of the crowd was to turn on the police. In his evidence Dobbyn said his comments were made in the heat of the moment when, faced with a potentially explosive situation, he tried to hold the crowd together. He stated that had the police held back and, most importantly, not stopped the concert, the music would have been enough to keep things peaceful.

The case was heard over two days in the Auckland District Court before Judge Michael Brown. Both sides called witnesses who attended the concert but their reports of what Dobbyn said were all different. A tape on which a *Rip It Up* article on the riot was based was ruled inadmissible because the person who made the original recording was out of the country and therefore unable to testify to its authenticity. The second part of the trial included a series of character witnesses for Dobbyn, all stressing his talent and commitment to his craft and his pacifist nature.

On the third day Judge Brown took one hour to deliver his verdict. As he went intricately through the evidence, he dropped no clues as to what he'd decided. Dobbyn sat tensely with his lawyers; the public gallery was packed with friends and colleagues all looking just as concerned. Many of the points the

judge made sounded very similar to the findings reached by the commission of inquiry into the riot. He mentioned New Zealanders' immaturity with alcohol and drugs and "the violence smouldering in our arid urban communities." He accepted that a minority of the concertgoers were out to cause trouble right from the start and that confrontations with the police had started well before Dobbyn said anything.

However, he said he found the musician's remarks "ill-advised". Faces in the courtroom tightened. He added the words had indeed distracted the crowd's attention to the police. In summing up however, the judge said he'd had six months to consider Dobbyn's comments, the musician had just a few seconds. He recommended that in future Dobbyn watch his mouth on stage, but his comments on this occasion were not sufficient in content or intent to justify a conviction on such a serious charge.

Spontaneous applause broke out. Everyone who'd been stunned the charges were brought in the first place now realised how close Dave Dobbyn had come to achieving scapegoat status. Outside the court, Dobbyn paid tribute to the support of family and friends, saying "I'll stick my neck out for anyone after this lot." Later it was revealed the case cost the musician at least \$12,000 in legal fees and travel expenses, not to mention loss of earnings. Since the riot Dobbyn and DD Smash have suffered a smeared reputation which affected crowd numbers during the nationwide tour in March.

Fortunately, Dave feel no bitterness towards this country over the case. He says he still loves New Zealand and will be back. He's one person who has done so much for New Zealand music and has the potential to become one of our most important ambassadors, of any sort, overseas. Despite the final outcome of the case, it's been a very sorry episode. The sad fact is, it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

**Mark Everton**