

# Rumours

**UK & USA**

New **Simple Minds** album has been produced by American heavyweights **Bob Clearmountain** and **Jimmy Iovine**. No title yet, but first single is 'Alive and Kicking'. The record is the first to feature new bassist John Gibling ... **Bob Dylan's** comment about maybe a little of the Live Aid money going to poverty-stricken US farmers has been carried through to a project called **Farm Aid**, a big fund-raising concert which will feature Dylan, **Lou Reed**, **Neil Young**, **Waylon Jennings**, **Willie Nelson** and others ... and **Springsteen** and **Gil Scott-Heron** have been added to the big lineup for **Miami Steve Van Zandt's** anti-apartheid single 'Sun City'. One of the mixes on the single will also feature speeches by **Nelson Mandela** and **Desmond Tutu** ... as a result of their session together on 'Sun City' (and their work with Hall and Oates), former Temptations **Eddie Kendricks** and **David Ruffin** are now working together permanently as a duo and are making an album for Empire Records ... **Motown** has won a court battle for the rights to film the **Marvin Gaye** story, over one of Gaye's numerous creditors. The Motown offer was a lot less than the New York creditor's but Gaye's son plumped for the record company on the grounds that it was more likely to carry the project through properly ... the **Go-Betweens** were signed by Elektra Records in England, just before they were due to come back to Australia, so they're staying in England ... **Martin Kemp** and **Steve Norman of Spandau Ballet** have turned up as themselves in the *Roy of the Rovers* comic. It seems the skills and understanding of the two lads could just be what **Melchester United** needs. Forgodsake ... it's time for the **John Lennon** biopic; NBC-TV is making *John and Yoko — A Love Story*. Meanwhile a major stage play called *Lennon* has begun in the UK ... **Arnold Corns** is **David**

**Bowie and the Spiders From Mars** in a recording project they had funded for them just before the *Ziggy* LP. Most songs were just demos for the LP but a single 'Man In the Middle' has just been released on the British Krazy Kat label ... the dreadful Bowie/Jagger 'Dancing In the Streets' has had its payoffs for **Martha Reeves & the Vandellas** who are undertaking a European tour ... Pig Youth's **Brilliant** have resurfaced with an unlikely cover for a new single; James Brown's 'It's A Man's Man's Man's World' ... the **Flying Pickets** to record an accapella version of Bowie's 'Changes' ... and now for the medical news: **Marc Almond** has been rushed to hospital with an appendix threatening to burst and has had to cancel concert dates. Awww ... and **Paul Weller** has reportedly been refused a vasectomy because he's too young.

**Albums:** The Fall *This Nation's Saving Grace*, the Alarm *Strength*, Bronski Beat *Hundreds and Thousands*, Squeeze *Cosi Fan Tutti Frutti*, Waterboys *This Is the Sea*, X *Ain't Love Grand?*, Midge Ure *The Gift*, Neil Young *Old Ways*, Weather Girls *Big Girls Don't Cry*, Moodists *Double Life*, Hep-tones *Swing Low*, Johnny Thunders *Hurt Me More*, Spear Of Destiny *World Service*, Icicle Works *The Small Price Of A Bicycle*, Residents *PAL TV EP*, Shockabilly *Vietnam*, Crime and the City Solution *Just South of Heaven*.

**Auckland**

**Herbs** have been having a great time in Australia, playing the rounds in Sydney as well as popping down to Melbourne to play support for, of all people, Rick Wakeman ... the **Chills**, on the other hand, have now decided to give Australia a miss and fly out to the UK on November 1. Playing prospects include probable Dream Syndicate supporters and a night on their own at the legendary Dingwalls. Their retrospective compilation LP, *Kaleidoscope World*, should be out in England just in time for their gigs and here later this year ... both the Chills' *Lost EP* and the debut EP *Information* by ex-Flak-etc group, the European-domiciled **IF** got reviews in the

NME singles column recently. The reviewer referred to "five excellent songs" on the Chills EP. Wonder what happened to the other two? Anyway, Martin Phillips has penned a couple of Christmas songs and the band will hopefully record them for seasonal release.

The Harlequin Studios label, **Zulu Records**, has signed up **Dance Exponents**, **Hello Sailor** and **Roy Phillips and the Peddlers** for three-year contracts. The deals include direction by an overseas producer, mixing in Los Angeles or London and big-budget videos, all with a view to international distribution. Sailor begin work on an album in October and the other two will do likewise soon after ... a bit of back-patting in order for the Castle comics **Funny Business**, who not only pack 'em in every second Wednesday at the Windsor, but have catapulted **Willy De Wit** into the heady realms of TV stardom. This translates as: Willy has accepted an offer to appear as a regular in the next series of *McPhail and Gadsby*.

With the *Clear Trails* EP due for release soon, **Fetus Productions** are gearing up for some more recording in their 16-track city hideaway; Deberly (Bird Nest) Roy has been joining in on bass. Fetus plan a gig as the Fetals at a non-recognised venue and are currently looking at warehouses and the like. So keep an ear out ... likewise for a Nitpickers Picnic type show at a similar venue ... **Bird Nest Roys** back in form for a moon madness weekend at the Rising Sun recently ... **Hip In the Cathedral** have demonstrated names are definitely not their strong point by choosing **Shades Of Hawaii** as their new one. This didn't stop them from going down well as Roys' support.

A youth benefit concert in aid of the Waiuku Community Services Trust has been organised for Monday Oct 28 (Labour Weekend) at the Waiuku Town Hall. Tickets (from Music Studio Pukekohe or Waiuku College) are \$20.25, covering 12 hours of live music and a feed in the middle. Bands include **Ardijah**, **Grey Parade**, **Seven Deadly Sins**, **Shot In the Dark**, **Martial Law** and others ... **Chris and Lynne Thompson** begin work

soon on an album for Ode Records ... to celebrate Music Week and International Year of Youth, the National Music Council has organised a single called 'The Children' on EMI. The song is composed by **Rob Winch** (winner of 'Best New Song' in last year's Pater Awards) and performed by the **NZ Yamaha Youth Jazz Orchestra**, with vocals by young Maori singer **Tack Daniel** ... Rotorua has a new arts-entertainment mag called *Pulse*. First issue reveals a healthy sense of humour and rather more editorial substance than is often found in this kind of paper ... new Jayrem group is the Auckland-based **Jamboree** (who were Hoi Polloi until the discovery of an Australian group of the same name). Members are: Brent Tasker (vocals, keyboards), David Ball (guitar, keyboards), David Steunebrink (guitar), Andrew Horst (bass) and Joseph Fityus (drums). The last three were all members of Standing Joke ... latest London venture for those loveable **Gravelle** brothers is called **Sam the Firefly**, with Cliff on guitar and Steve on vocals ... **Quays** nightclub becomes **Tuxedomoon** on October 25. The image and name change is aimed at attracting a more "mature" clientele than the rather young crowd which has frequented the place. Opening night, the 25th, will feature Car Crash Set and Peking Man, next night Car Crash Set and someone else. Wentworth Brewster & Co. will become resident on Tuesday evenings.

New combo **In-Sekt** is Larry de Zoete, drums (ex Flak); Brett Orams, bass (ex Malicious Sanction); Leon del la Varis, guitar. Picking up from roughly where the members left off in the past, they hope to play and record soon. But there's a big vacancy for a vocalist at present, so contact Larry, ph 389-800 if interested ... **Glen Budgie** is alive and well and enjoying engineering at the **Lab** studios ... the **Sombretones** are recording. Does this mean they'll show their faces?

The imminent destruction of the New Independent Theatre's former premises has given the producers of the last show in the building the chance to really go

to town on all-round decor. **Lapel** is the name of the production, which is set in a nightclub and producers **Lance Fuller** and **Martin Perssan** (who were also involved with *The Hairy Thing*) will be tarting up the interior to look like a club itself. *Lapel* opens on November 16 and will feature dancers, singers and actors in one broad-ranging show.

**Pagan Records** continues to be active, with the first single from **Wentworth Brewster & Co.** being an old **Nat King Cole** song, 'Welcome To the Club' ... highly-rated Auckland club funksters **Ardijah** have their first single recorded and it will be out before the end of the year. The band also appears in Mirage Films' new *Queen City Rocker*, as do quite a number of other people, including loveable Windsor comic **Dean Butler** ... Gluepot residents **Cheek Ta Cheek** also have a single due out on Pagan, produced by **Dave McCartney** ... and something very different from that is the debut album from **Storm-bringer**, *Life Sentence To Rock 'n' Roll*, recorded at Dunedin's Strawberry Fields and out soon on Jayrem. A nationwide tour is planned to commence in late December. The live gigs will probably include the performance of the band's "epic heavy rock opera", *Gallery of Darkness* ... jumpin' **John Kirk** has written the lyrics of several songs whilst in jail in Dallas and **Murray Hancocks** (ex Coup D'Etat) has recorded one at Lab Studios for imminent release ... the **Fold** are recording at Lab also.

Late news on **Herbs** is that the single 'Nuclear Waste' and album *Long Ago* will be released in Sweden on Hawk Records and the album and title song are now released in Australia on Warrior, distributed by EMI. The boys return to these shores on October 23 and tour NZ in November ... confirmed dates for the **Chills** in England now include the Rock Garden, the Fridge and the Embassy Club, but they won't be doing the Dream Syndicate supports because the DS ain't coming.

**Russell Brown**

**Christchurch**

Spring has finally sprung ... and outdoor concerts are springing up here and there. Rockaholics have so far suc-

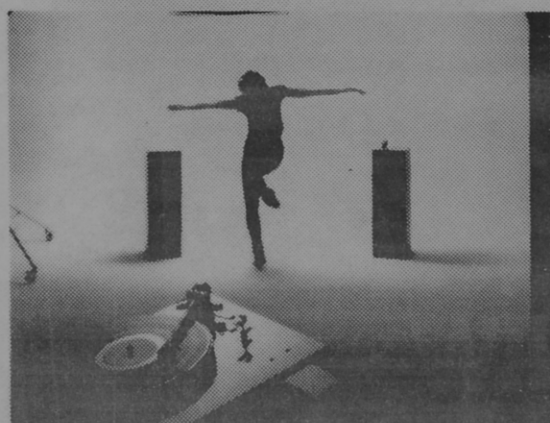
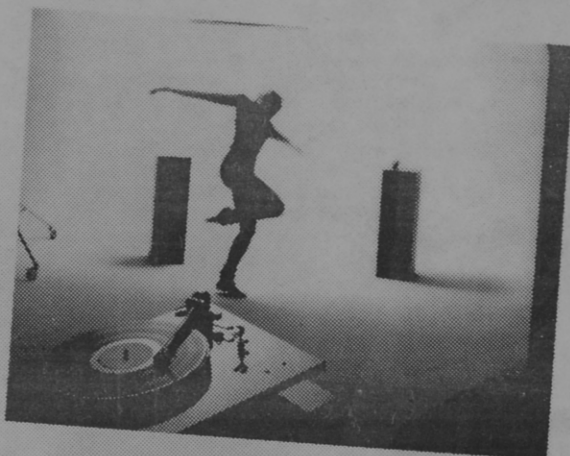
cessfully organised two Saturday afternoon 'Spring Rages' at the Arts Centre. Bands who have played include **Backlash**, **Pyramids**, **Rockaholics**, **Pinks**, **Connoisseurs** and **Axemin**. With the popularity of these two concerts, the likelihood of future events is good ... an unfortunate event involving certain members of the public and the boys in blue has resulted in the Manager of the Zetland banning boot bands ... and the early week gigs have had to end (for now) due to complaints about the noise ... on a brighter note, Tony Peek is again booking bands into the Old Star Tavern/Zanzibar.

Christchurch's own fanzine *Homegrown* has made its first appearance. Although No.1 was a bit disappointing things look promising, and the print is very clear for a fanzine. Available from record shops or PO Box 33-177, ChCh ... new bands around include **Spatback**; Peter Sweeney, guitar, vocals (ex Venetians); Nick Strong, bass (ex Expendables); Darren Johns, drums (ex Sporting Life) and Deb Frame (ex Wayward Witches). Deb may soon be travelling north to work with former Freudian Slips singer Penny Andrews ... also the **Chamelias**, a three piece with their roots in Monitor.

The **Axemen** have added some female vocalists (and a singing alsatian!?) and become the **Axemin** ... the band with no name who became Pathfinder have now settled on the name **Circles**. The band (Nigel Mahoney, vocals; Greg Bainbridge, bass); Michael Tan, drums; and Martin Morris, guitar) are having a short break to reorganise themselves after Peter Cooke's departure. They hope to include a horn section some time in the near future.

Timaru's brightest hope the **Punch** have decided to call it a day. The band have had a good reaction since moving to Christchurch but drummer Selwyn decided it was time to get a more stable income happening. The plan was to find a replacement but after lengthy discussion they all decided to go their separate ways ... watch out Auckland, **Pop Mechanix** are on their way. After playing ChCh

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