

Rumours

UK & USA

There will be another **Bowie** world tour — next year. Again, Bowie will pick up a blues guitarist, this time Texan **Albert Collins**, who he met during soundtrack sessions for the new Bowie film *Labyrinth*. Bowie is one of only two human actors in the Jim Henson movie. The next Bowie record in the shops will be the title track from the *Absolute Beginners* movie. ... **Elvis Costello** is now, strictly speaking, **Declan McManus** and has invited a variety of musicians to play on his new LP *The King Of America*, under the name **The Costello Show**. Reviews have been good ... the **Monkees** are reforming! **Tork**, **Jones** and **Dolenz** will tour Australia as a three-piece but will be joined later by Michael Nesmith for a TV special ... **Wham!** have! split! ... **boozey wit** from the **Pogues**, whose new EP is *Poguetry In Motion* and the **Blubbbery Hellbellies**, who called their mini-LP *Cafe Blur* ... **Boy George** for *The A Team!* All very good promo for the new **Culture Club** LP *From Luxury To Heartache*, produced by **Arif Mardin** ... **Frank Zappa** has taken up the cudgels against the Washington Wives and their record censorship, calling his new LP *Frank Zappa Meets the Mothers Of Prevention* ... Belgian band **Shady Vision** has released a Hardcastle-style single 'Just A Game', about the Heysel stadium riot, which claimed 39 lives. **John Peel** sessions dating back 19 years are to be released on three or four-track 12" singles. Artists featured

will include Fleetwood Mac, Tull, T Rex, Bowie, Banshees, Human League, Frankie, Smiths, etc. The records will be released at a rate of four per month ... the Studio One label has released an unusual **Bob Marley** gospel single, 'Just In Time', which is of uncertain age. There's more similar stuff in the vaults ... Nashville's EP Cosmetics Corp have just signed a deal with the estate of **Elvis Presley** for a wild line of Elvis toilettries ... **Respond Records** has officially folded. Its remaining artist, **Tracie**, is off to a major label ... legendary London venues the **Marquee** and **Dingwalls** are both closing, to re-emerge as swish niteries.

New **Madonna** film is *Shanghai Surprise*, a **George Harrison** production. She has recorded a new album, *Live To Tell* ... bass player **Cait O'Riordan** flew the coop on the **Pogues** in New York after a sleepless 48-hour party. One of the band's roadies did some quick learnin' and filled in for her at Washington gigs. It's unclear whether it's a permanent departure, but her new hubby, **Elvis Costello**, will not produce the **Pogues** again. A name being bandied around for the next album is **Tom Waits** ... **Madness** member **Suggs** has been alleged in a front-page story in the *Sun* that he still has links with Ian Stewart, a member of racist skinhead band **Skrewdriver**. He says he has had no contact with former friend Stewart for seven years. The article, by the one-time 'Oi' man, **Garry Bushell** makes much of Suggs' "looney left" connections and looks not unlike an attempt to discredit the Red Wedge tour of which Suggs has been part. More such stories are to follow, apparently ... **Richard Manuel**, keyboardist for The Band, hanged

himself in a Florida motel room on a tour by the reformed Band. No apparent motive, but Manuel had been a heavy drinker and depressive for years ... blind bluesman **Sonny Terry** has died in New York aged 75 ... if you missed **Laurie Anderson** live, you may get a chance to see a newly-released film of a 1985 performance *Home of the Brave* ... Go-Go moved a bit towards gone-gone with the news that kings of the beat heap **Trouble Funk** have split ... **Cabaret Voltaire** have cut their ties with Virgin and Some Bizarre and will now set up their own management and production company ... going the other way are **Husker Du**, whose new LP *Candy Apple Grey*, is their first for Warner Bros ... **Poly Styrene** made a surprise comeback a recent English CND gig. She has reportedly backed away from the Krishna faith a little and has an EP coming up ... fellow punk rocker **Pete Shelley** has a new live band and single 'Waiting For Love' ... new **Psychic TV** single, 'Godstar', is about **Brian Jones** drowning.

Auckland

With this summer's PIPs scheme winding down it's time for a pat on the back. The various projects have given full-time employment to members of the city's musical community, in administration, artwork and performance, as well as paying local bands decent sums to do their stuff. Highlights include the busking competition which saw the **Axmin** storm in, and the recent Aotea Square gig with **Bird Nest Roys**, **Goblin Mix** and **Pterodactyls**. Perhaps the only weakness was a lack of funds for publicising the events themselves. Ta ... and still theatre group **Stalker** bowed out of their PIPs scheme with a free Saturday night performance at His

Majesty's. The show began with the by-now familiar comet piece, and went on to introduce some adventurous new material and three new walkers (two women), with backing by Rex Visible, Bevan Sweeney and Robert Key. Cost nothing and delivered heaps. There's a good chance **Stalker** will carry on without the support of the PIPs payments, but they're now having a short break to rest their tortured spines.

The next few performances will be the last for local faves **Bird Nest Roys** and **Goblin Mix**. The Roys want to try new things and the Gobs have lost bass player Alf to the budget booze and rent of Dunedin ... but the **Pterodactyls** have picked up ex-Chill Martin Kean on guitar to replace Richard James. First performances most encouraging. Richard, meanwhile, plans to revive the name **Mainly Spaniards** for his new group. If they get famous, Swiftly'll be able to tell 'em all about it in the *NME* ... speaking of which, the **Chills** album *Kaleidoscope World* appears to have peaked at No.3 in the *NME* Indie Charts. *Melody Maker* coined the potentially poisonous term 'The Kiwi Beat' in a recently-printed interview with Martin Philipps ... the **Bats** got safely off to Britain after a wild Tuesday night goodbye at the Windsor ... and **Tall Dwarfs** and **Fetus Productions** have been invited to play the Amsterdam Free Festival in May. Fetus are definitely going and Chris Knox seems likely to join Alec Bathgate for European Dwarf gigs. **Pagan Records** kick off 1986 with 'Fight', debut single from Simon Alexander's new band **Chrome Safari**, taken from the *Queen City Rocker* soundtrack ... next release will be 'Cry For You Only/Beat the Sound' by **The Rap-ture**, a one-man band project by

ex-Teetone **Peter Solomon**, recorded at Last Laugh ... South AK funksters **Ardijah** have got serious, stripped down their lineup (dropping their drummer for a machine) and prepared a single 'Give Me Your Number' (another *Queen City Rocker* track). Expect live gigs ... **Car Crash Set** are currently recording a new single and working towards their second album ... a video has been done for the **Obscure Desire** collective single ... the **Shona Laing** LP *Genre* has been released in Germany ... and look out for a cowpoke by the name of **Tex Pistol**.

In deference to their radical expansion of musical styles (and two additional members), the **Able Tasmans** are this very moment mutating into the **Able Ogdens**. Both lineups play the Rising Sun April 17-19 with **Goblin Mix** and dance group Te Kanikani O Te Rangatahi ... Graeme Jefferies has gone to Dunedin to join brother Peter and resume recording as **This Kind of Punishment** ... the **Rollmops** have split, but Mike Harlambi and Adam Holt have joined one-time Meemees Peter Van Der Fluit and Michael O'Neill in a new band ... new about Auckland are the **Merkins**, **Crunchy Something** and the **Battling Strings**.

Among those interested in producing the next **Mockers** album are rilly grate people like **Status Quo**'s bassist and the main songwriter from **Starship** (golly) ... **Everything That Flies** are recording their new single 'A Winter's Tale' at Mandrill ... **Beat Soldiers** are recording a single 'Conversation' with Phil Yule at Mascot.

From the Waikato, it seems the **Bronx** may reform ... **Big Rock** may go to Australia ... and new band **Sonics** will hit the road when Big Rock depart. **Someone Up There** is a new

Auckland-based cassette label. First artist is **Derek Lind**, and his Phil Yule-produced *Mixed Blessings* will initially be available by mail order from 2/189 White Swan Rd, Lynfield, Auckland, for \$11.98 including postage. You'll have a chance to catch Lind live at the Symphonia Theatre on May 10 ... **Reptiles At Dawn** (ex **Henchmen**) have secured a record deal with New Rose Records in France and are in Sydney in the midst of recording an album, *Naked in the Wilderness: The Story So Far*, for release later this year ... **Corben Simpson** and **Mahia Tocker** have teamed up to provide Sunday night music at the Collage Restaurant in Lorne St. The resident pair will be introducing musical friends with each performance.

Kevin Hawkins has recorded an album as **Screamers' K. Hawkins & His Walkin' Brothers**. No LP title yet, but the single will be the crowd-pleasing 'Queer Song'. Some of the album was recorded on the TV Eye Portastudio, and so features the expected assortment of guests ... in Europe, **Eight Living Legs** now feature ex-Budgies drummer James Murray on guitar. They've recorded demos and will soon do an EP or album for Fever Records. Soon to embark on a four-country European tour with ... **IF**, fellow ex-Flak Kiwis, who are currently recording an album. Their first single 'Information' is still selling well, they played a lot in Holland, Belgium and Switzerland last year and have a sizeable following in Amsterdam.

New premises for the **Lab Studios** is at 174-176 Symonds St, new ph no 399-693. The new room is a big brick one and the studio will be orientated towards

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