

The Sun also Rocks

The way has been opened for Auckland's younger and less experienced bands to get gigs with developments at the Rising Sun in Karangahape Rd. The upstairs bar at the hotel has been taking bands periodically since last year but the booking has changed hands and taken a more innovative and involved approach.

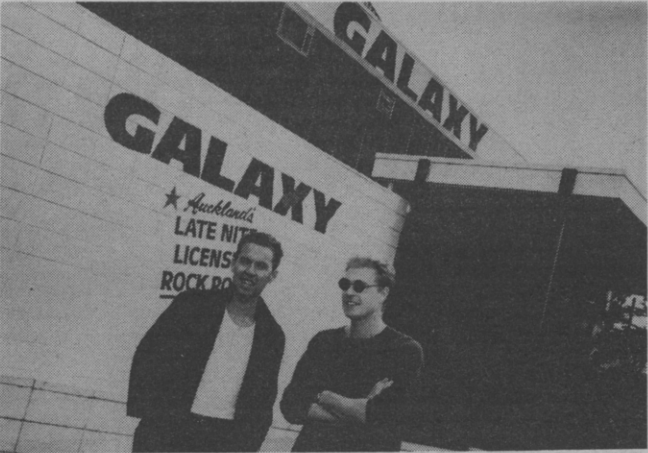
Paul Rose, whose experience stretches back through Propeller Records and managing the New-matics and No Tag, to showing Lou Reed where to score the best hamburgers, has taken over the pub. Among the immediate changes are \$3 Saturday afternoon gigs, where two or three young bands will get the chance to play, sometimes along with

better-known groups. The afternoons are part of Rose's policy of trying to draw bands out of their suburban garages and give them stage experience. He'll be satisfied if the bands manage to cover the modest PA and lights charges, but obviously the musicians themselves will have to pull their weight — which means getting off their bums and doing poster runs and the like. Similar bills are possible for some Friday evenings at the

hotel, which see early closing (it's open till 11pm on Thursday nights, to co-incide with K Rd shopping). "Lots of variety," is Rose's summing-up of his approach to the Rising Sun. The first weekend of his stewardship saw a still theatre group, a solo Chris Knox, the two-person Selwyn Toogood's electronic noises and the Headless Chickens' swaggering authority. Rose has plans for the likes of the Dance Exponents and country singer Al Hunter to play the venue also.

The advantages of the new venue go beyond its low costs and sympathetic promoter. It has an atmosphere and a cosiness that seems to draw out good performances from the bands who play there and make it good for the audience too. No kidding.

Paul Rose can be contacted at Livesound, ph 789-125, 12.30 to 5pm on weekdays.



Kiwi Quota for Kiwi Radio?

Government promises of a NZ music quota for radio are being given a hurry-up with a new petition backed by a host of luminaries in the musical and other spheres.

The petition seeks a minimum 20 per cent local quota on all public and private radio stations and its organisers aim to collect more than 250,000 signatures to present to the Minister of Broadcasting, Jonathan Hunt, said spokesperson Karyn Hay. A glance at the list of supporters

reveals names like Auckland mayor Cath Tizard, TV's Peter Blake, film-maker Vincent Ward, musicians like Neil and Tim Finn and Dave Dobbyn, studio owner Glynn Tucker, rock writer Rob White, Virgin NZ boss Brian Pitts and opera singer Louise Malloy.

A small petition form appears in this issue and official forms will be distributed nationwide to record shops, high schools and universities, recording studios and student radio stations. Plans are to collect the forms around May 12, so if you intend to sign it's

important to do so quickly. And tell your friends. Twenty per cent is only two or three songs an hour, and the kinds of Kiwi music you enjoy may or may not make it often onto the airwaves, but it's vital that this country's broadcast media — particularly publicly-owned stations — start reflecting this country's culture better. It's sad that it has to come to anything as heavy-handed as specific legislation, but if that's what it's come to, that's what it's come to. RB

Heaven Sent Venue

When Mainstreet fell last year to the big scythe of the Chase Corporation, most people who'd been there probably regarded the closure with mixed feelings. After all, it meant no more nights of stuffy torture in the place — but also the loss of a 1500-capacity music venue. But now a new venue, the Galaxy, seems likely to fill the same function — minus the anti-social extras.

built. And it will be very visible, because most of the PA will be "flown" from the ceiling and the big bass bins will nestle under the stage. According to the Oceania sound company it'll work a treat. There's a huge and terrifying air conditioning system and two bars, open until 3am. It's based loosely on Sydney's multi-purpose Tivoli room and there won't be finicky dress restrictions at the door.

"The success of the room is going to go hand in hand with the strength of the band scene in Auckland," says Ulrich. "We've stuck our necks out now, because while we were preoccupied with soul music, local rock music seems to have been suffering. One of the things we'd like to do is have a night of real new-boy bands."

The venue is, naturally, open to touring bands and several international acts have been pencilled in for the first couple of months of operation. In fact it's likely that an imported band will open the club for business, late this month. Ulrich and Phillips are looking to work closely with promoters, and perhaps even run the odd tour themselves. But for day-to-day administration they've hired experienced sound/production man Tom Sampson as club manager.

The current climate of public disinclination to pay to hear live music makes the establishment of a well-appointed venue like the Galaxy a bold move. But it will be done properly, and it's new — and maybe that's what it will take. RB

Peter Dawkins, who was A&R person for EMI before he left in 1972, will return in May to take over EMI's Lower Hutt studios. He will run it as an independent studio after completing renovations, revamping the acoustics, installing new 24-track equipment and so on.

During the 70s, Dawkins was very successful in the Australian music industry. Among his productions were most of the classic Dragon and Mi-Sex tracks; more recently he has produced Australian Crawl, Air Supply and Pseudo Echo.

New Editor

Rip It Up undergoes a staff change this month with the departure of Assistant Editor Russell Brown.

Chris Bourke, formerly of the Listener, has been appointed Editor of Rip It Up freeing up publisher Murray Cammick to concentrate on Shake! magazine and administration.

Russell is heading for London, where he will continue to write for RIU.

The Galaxy has been set up in the old Dirty Dick's premises, at the top of Mt Eden Rd, and by the time \$100,000 worth of improvements have been made, it'll hold upwards of 1000 people. The new club will run Thursday to Saturday and whenever else its needed. Its the brainchild of Mark Phillips and Peter Ulrich, the hip entrepreneurial team that has previously produced A Certain Bar, Zanzibar, the 6 Month Club and, lately, the Brat.

"We were getting dozens of people at the Brat asking why we weren't playing different music (the Brat infatuation is with mid-tempo modern soul)," Phillips explains. "And there didn't seem to be anybody else catering to these people — so we thought we'd better do something."

So the Galaxy is a rock club. Rock records will be played by the DJ — nothing very radical, wide-appeal Top 20 stuff mainly. But its as a live music venue the place holds some excitement.

A very big stage has been

N.Z. MUSIC QUOTA PETITION

"We, the undersigned hereby request that all New Zealand Radio Stations be required by law to broadcast per day a minimum 20% quota of music recorded by New Zealand Artists."

| | NAME IN FULL | ADDRESS IN FULL | SIGNATURE |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | | | |
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| 5 | | | |

Please post to NZ MUSIC QUOTA PETITION Box 47-299, Ponsonby, Auckland.

Closing date May 12th. To ensure the validity of this petition please print carefully and sign once only.

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