

'RUMOURS' FROM PAGE 4
pressed with their first couple of gigs... will the real **Doubting Thomas's** please stand up? A year after the demise of the **Thomas's** an unrelated group called the **Thomas's** has appeared... the **Java Jive Cafe**, new on College Hill, will hold fortnightly concerts each Sunday. First up on May 25 are **Auckland Acoustics**... in New Plymouth, **Smashed Ears Productions** are booking the Lion Tavern. Phone Brian Water at 83301 or write to Box 407, New Plymouth... Waihi band **Ebony Sye** are embarking on a three-month winter tour of the North Island. According to their promotions manager, the band "is setting its own course in musical enjoyment without the benefit of drugs and alcohol"... Auckland poet **Sandra Bell** is currently recording an EP at Last Laugh, to be released in June.
Chris Bourke

Palmerston North

The last few months have seen a big upsurge in local music thanks largely to the Commercial Hotel developing as a venue for local bands. However just as

things got going someone decided the pub would look better as a shopping complex. To mark the closing of the venue the **Remarkables**, **Three Leaning Men**, **Cement Garden**, **Harry Death**, **Statmox**, the **Polar Bears**, **Fetch Jones**, **Glance Backwards** and **Sticky Fifth** combined to put on a two day Anzac Weekend closing down party. It was a sellout and those that got in seemed to have a wild time.

Dolphin is the name of the new 16-track studio in town and they can be contacted at PN 81265. A group of people called **Triad Video** are also setting up in town and they can be contacted through the studio.

A lot of local bands have already used the studio and there are a lot of projects coming out soon on Palmerston's **Meltdown Records**. This month sees a special project single from the **Remarkables** which was recorded to help raise money for the South African Scholarship Trust. Other releases out soon will be a single from **Cement Garden**, and EP from Auckland band the **Warners**, an album from **Three Leaning Men**, and EP by the **End** and a

compilation album.
Peter Shepherd

Christchurch

Flying Nun's year has already been a busy one and it looks like getting busier as they prepare to release a host of new recordings at home as well as overseas with an American distribution deal reaching the final stages. First up Stateside will be **Tuata**, and if all goes well America should be hearing from the **Verlaines**, **Sneaky Feelings** and **Tall Dwarves** in the near future.

Closer to home though, keep an eye out for new releases from **Look Blue Go Purple**, **Sneaky Feelings** (LP), **Alpaca Brothers**, **Axemin** (double LP), the **Puddle**, the **Clean** (Live Dead Clean 12") and the **Chills** **Kaleidoscope World** which was previously only available in the UK.

And on a slightly smaller scale, **Arnie at Nightshift** has been busy with the **Jumbies** (recording a follow up to 'Stuff of Dreams'), **Bushfire**, **Middle East** and **Antix** all spending time in the studio... whilst **Fallsafe** are hoping to have their new compilation tape out very soon, with the impressive

track list including the **Chills**, **Birds Nest Roys**, **Jean Paul Sartre Experience** and **Mea Culpa**; it is well worth investigating.

Mea Culpa are a band worth catching if you get the chance, although since reforming, the guys seem to have been jinxed with both **Clay Paviell** (bass) and **Floyd Rudolf** (guitar/vocals) injuring a hand each (twice in Floyd's case), various pieces of equipment being mislaid, as well as supporting the **Hoodoo Gurus** at the Aranui but (due to lack of space) not actually getting to play. Fortunately **Ken Haines** (drums) has managed to stay accident free and **Mea Culpa** should be appearing more regularly without these hassles.

Jean Paul Sartre Experience are expanding their lineup with the addition of a saxophonist and a harp player. The band are hoping to do some recording soon, probably at a local studio and at Strawberry Sounds in Dunedin.

Wanted people at the moment seem to be drummers with both the **Dukes** (Grant Alexander and Lyall Stone, ph. 596091 - vocalists also) and the **Chamelias** (ph. 324486) looking for someone to fit the position, while **Louie and the Hotsticks** are after a saxophonist (ph. 288256).

Tony Rabbit (ex-News, Big Race) is back at the Carlton - this time playing bass for the **Party Pros**... **Stephen McIntyre** (ex-Ballon D'essai) has joined **All Fall Down**... Original 'Bushperson' **Ian Costello** has left **Bushfire** (now back at Warners) and has formed the **Mulligans**... **Lizzie Cook's** new band is **Stop That Train**... old favourites the **Venetians** have reformed... the **Two Timers** have gone their separate ways for now.

Stay tuned to Radio U for a weekend special hosted by **Alan Parkes** which will feature only local bands. **Rob Mays** is also helping out the local bands by having them perform live on his Wednesday night shows.

Keep an eye on the Gladstone for a **War of the Bands** type event during May. Being billed as the only alternative for bands, the competition has already attracted over 20 local bands and an impressive prize list. All interested participants are advised to write to Running Promotions, Box 2382, Christchurch, or phone John on 488695, ext. 840.
John Greenfield

'VIDEO' FROM PAGE 8
sentinel, well reviewed at film festivals; Australian comic **Austen Tayshus** - *On the Edge*; and... "Habit forming! Mind Controlling! Life Absorbing!"... *The Stuff!*

CIC offer a tearjerker - *Cher in Mask*; a thriller - *Harrison Ford in Witness*; and a comedy - *Steve Martin in The Jerk*, all good stuff.

But **Kerridge Odeon/Amalgamated** have the stylish *Hand-picked* by Billy... the Big Yin Billy Connolly, in concert; also the NZ film with the suspect incest script, *Heart of the Stag*. Picketed by feminists, its release is being advertised on TV.

The Life and Times of Little Richard: the Quasar of Rock by Charles White (Pan, \$12.95)

As told by Little Richard, his family, band and anyone willing to attest to his brilliance and his right to be called the "King of Rock 'n' Roll".

Charles White's commentary links the reminiscences and anecdotes of Richard and those around him. The result is informative and highly entertaining, especially in the case of the Quasar himself... "A scream and a holler's a holler to me. I just love 'em. These were my fans and I loved 'em and they loved me, too. So it was a hand for a hand and a foot for a foot. And a pot for a pot. Born born!"

Originally published in 1984, it covers Richard from birth to virtually the present. Everything from Richard's sexual repertoire to that of his band and its various members (even Buddy Holly's), details of recording dates, tours - and all washed down at the end by a good dose of preachin' from the Quasar himself.

Essential.
Harry Lyon



Little Richard as Orvis Goodnight in 'Down & Out in Beverly Hills'.

Film

DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS

Director: Paul Mazursky

Paul Mazursky has always seemed a reluctant Hollywood director and all his films, from *Next Stop Greenwich Village* to *The Tempest* seem to exist in a world of their own. Still, remembering *Alice B. Toklas* and *Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice*, the director can be as cynical as anyone else about the vagaries of the West Coast life-style, and the very title of his latest film is nothing if not provocative.

Based loosely in Renoir's 1932 classic *Boudu sauve des eaux*, *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* concerns a tramp (played by Nick Nolte) who insinuates himself into the collective bosom of a nouveau riche Beverly Hills family. Presided over by Richard Dreyfuss and Bette Midler, it's the classic nuclear family, complete with anorexic daughter, androgynous son and the cutest little pooch to hit the giant screen for years (or so someone must have thought, judging by the amount of reaction shots it is given).

There are subtle overtones of Pasolini's *Teoroma* (although Mazursky suggests liaisons only between Nolte and the ladies of the family) and Bunuel's *Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* (food is one of the central themes of the film, from the dog's problems with its pet fodder to Midler's health food).

The ultimate weakness of *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* is tied up with the film's greatest asset - its ambling good-natured charm. The characters are not tightly enough focused: Dreyfuss flusters around and Midler delivers a broad sketch in the vein of her recent *Dirt* will be *Flung Tonight* performance - rarely do these characters seem to relate to each other. Doubtless, it's a surefire box office, but one misses the superb ensemble playing of *The Tempest* or the marvellous playing between Jill Clayburgh and Alan Bates in *An Unmarried Woman*.
WILLIAM DART

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