

# Rumours

## US & UK

Michael Jackson's record company have denied rumours that release of his new album has been delayed till next year ... chameleon **Elvis Costello**, using the name the MacManus Gang, is about to release 'A Town Called Big Nothing' in Britain. Costello is currently touring the US solo, with a solo **Nick Lowe** supporting.

A Tory MP wants the **Beasties** banned: "The fact they have a 20-foot hydraulic penis as a prop in their stage show demonstrates the mentality of this group. Our children will be corrupted by this sort of thing" ... **Bobby Womack** has withdrawn his *Womagic* LP from sale, unhappy with the sound quality. Now it's back to the studio for remixing and re-recording backing tracks ... **Prince** is rehearsing his new stage show in Birmingham, of all places.

**Twisted Sister's** lead singer has published *Dee Snider's Teenage Survival Guide* ... nix those **Knack**

reunion rumours! It's happened! ... the **Cure** have recorded 20 songs for a double LP at Compass Point, Bahamas, due out this month ... **Mick Jagger's** second solo LP features **Jeff Beck**, **Dave Stewart**, drummer **Omar Hakim** (from **Sting's** band) and bassist **Doug Wimbish** (from Sugarhill Records' house band) ... **REM's** Michael Stipe sings backing vocals on **Warren Zevon's** new LP, with the rest of REM playing instruments ... **Eric Clapton** is touring with **Robert Cray** — and a singing drummer not unlike the one in **Genesis**.

**Jerry Dammers**, representing Artists Against Apartheid, picketed **Paul Simon's** recent London concerts ... after security guards beat up his audience in UK recently, **Jerry Lee Lewis** beat up the hall's Steinway piano ... new **David Bowie** and **Beastie Boy** clips have been banned by the BBC ... Bowie previewed his album to the press playing live in a small London theatre with **Peter Dinklage** in his band ... **Frankie Goes to Hollywood** have split — until next year.

**Brian Ferry's** new LP will include songs written with the Smith's

**Johnny Marr** and backing vocals by **Madonna** ... **George Harrison**, **Bob Dylan** and **John Fogerty** recently joined **Taj Mahal** on stage in LA, playing 'Matchbox', 'Knock on Wood', 'Midnight Hour' and 'Proud Mary' ... **Ronald Reagan's** new chief of staff **Howard Baker** wrote the liner notes to the 1967 soul classic *King & Queen* by **Otis Redding** and **Carla Thomas** ... rock crit groupies: watch out for a gigantic anthology of **Lester Bangs'** writing *Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung*, edited by **Greil Marcus**, out this spring.

## Christchurch

**Nightshift's** new studio has been occupied by the **Bats**, the **J P Sartre Experience** and a few country acts. Response to their weekend workshops has been disappointing so far ... on the move lately have been **Running Promotions**, now sharing an office at 248 St Asaph Street with **Fun-time Productions** and **Phantom Billstickers** (phone no for all is 64 324) ... **Burning House Promotions** have moved in with **Audio Access** at Bedford Row.

**Audio Access** are still working on their compilation album, while **Detox**, **South American?**, **Prodigies**, **Belair** and the **Moa Hunters** have been in the studio ... **Fat Sally** release their first offering through EMI this month. The five-track *Shadow of the Night* will be followed by an album later this year.

**Kiss the Sky** (Eric Johns, Simon Darke, Mike Davison, Kerri Buchanan and Simon Manson) played 60s heavy rock at the Playroom recently ... **Get Real** (Mike Shields, Eddie Olsen, Dale Monaghan and Simon Manson) are creating a buzz at the Playroom ... new bands include the **Hard**, **Sneaky Feet**, **Lemonade Goldfish**, **Salems Lot**, the **Riff** and **Thief in the Night** ... **Dux de Lux** has become the place for jazz buffs on Saturdays ... local fanzine *Homegrown* is about to make a comeback. Any budding writers contact Leesa at 383 034 ... finally the competition to guess the number of mistakes in last month's column has been abandoned due to indecision on the judge's behalf. Sorry! **John Greenfield**

## North

While **Ardijah** will be launching their album at the Galaxy on May 21, **Herbs** will launch theirs in troubled Ruatoria, East Cape, at Queen's Birthday ... Peter Warren's **Rooda** gave a polished performance of rockabilly and HM at Auckland's Birdcage recently — a good outdoor venue under the motorway, but not for late autumn! — with Drew Bowden performing the Sun catalogue, Andrew Langford throwing in his catalogue of licks, and Exponent Dave Gent proving he can hold it together under any circumstances ... supporting Rooda around Auckland will be the **Dakodas**, with Kirkby Reid fronting ... **Kerry Brown's** video of **Shona Laing's** 'Not a Kennedy' has been screened on Australian MTV.

Recording LPs at Progressive have been **Darlene Adair**, **Cath Tait** and **Paul Trenwith**; working on demos are the **Dark**, **Screaming Pope (for an EP)** ... **Ross McDermott**, bassist for When the Cat's Away, is starting work engineering at Progressive ... **David Eggleton** has finished recording a five-track EP of rap poetry and music at the Lab with Terry Moore engineering. Watch for *Rap Up* on Partisan.

**Artspace** is organising three weekends *Free from Error* — a programme of NZ experimental music, with workshops, performances, videos, performances and graphic scores. Organised by **Ivan Zagni**, they'll take place on May 23, July 4 and August 15. Those interested in performing write to Zagni at Artspace, 101 Federal St, Auckland giving an outline. For details phone him at 766 094, or Artspace, 34965.

Coming from Pagan soon are recordings by **Debbie Harwood**,

**John Quigley**, and new singles by **Chrome Safari**, **Tex Pistol** and **This Boy Rob** ... from **Flying Nun** in the next month or so are LPs from the **Spines**, **Fold**, **Rip**, **Verlaines** and **This Kind of Punishment**.

Palmerston Nth's the **End** are completing work on debut album *The Ultimate Game* with **Nigel Stone** producing. The End's **Paul Campbell** is planning a solo tour ... **Swiss Kids** Barry Campbell and John Saunders have completed a synthesiser-oriented four-track cassette ... **Bassett Rd Murders** have recorded two songs for a single ... despite its Rheineck Rock Festival losses, **Meltdown** is releasing **Three Leaning Men's** debut LP and the **Pterodactyl's** EP 'We've Done it Now' in June. Watch for excerpts from the festival on *RWP*.

## RIPITUP

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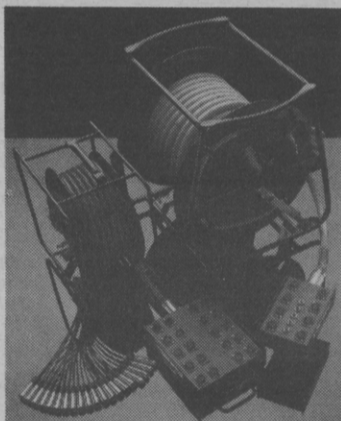
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