

# RUMOURS

## Auckland

Watch for the **Rheineck Music Festival** to be held at Abbys in Victoria St on Saturday August 29. All three bars will have live music from 11am to 12pm, with Al Hunter, Narcs, Skindivers, Maria Monet, Neon Quaver, Society Jazzmen, Tommy Adderly, Toot Suite, Red Adair, Soul on Ice and Rhythm Cage. **National Anthem** return with a single this month 'Wonderful Reason' plus live gigs with new six-piece lineup...the **Pterodactyls** have an EP and **Three Leaning Men** an album due out in the next month on Meltdown. **Lynne Campbell** from Working Holiday is joining **Sweet Harmony**, whose new album is available at their gigs. Mondays at **Charley Gray's** cinema are 'Cheap Thrills' nights: previews and rarities for \$3.50... ever keep

clippings or notes of the pop charts? Russ Leadley wants details of National Hit Parades and the Top 40 from the years 1961 to 1967 for a NZ music encyclopaedia he's compiling. Write PO Box 378, Greymouth.

In New Plymouth **Sticky Filt** have an EP out this month 'At Least Rock & Roll Doesn't Give You Aids'... new bands are the **Urchins**, with Brendan Conlon (ex-Remarkable) and Mark Airle (ex-Pilcrow), and a thrash metal band **Das Unter Mensch**... about a dozen local bands are booked so far for the Kuitze No Ordinary Band contest at the White Hart on August 28 & 29.

The first national training scheme for backstage theatre workers is underway. Trainees will spend two years training while working in a theatre, learning all parts of their craft. Organised by the National Theatre Technicians Training Committee, applications for the new entrant training scheme close at the end of August, with an introductory

course planned to start mid-October. For details contact Jeremy Collins ph. 09-792-583, or write PO Box 9443, Courtenay Place, Wgton. **Joe 90** have a single out 'Walls Surrounding Me' in early Sept, when their tour starts. **Maya** have finished recording an album-length cassette. **Chris Bourke**

## UK & USA

Top UK producer (Grace Jones, Talking Heads, Simply Red, Bob Marley, Robbie Nevil) **Alex Sadkin** died after a car accident in Nassau, Bahamas, on July 16. He'd just completed Boom Crash Opera's debut LP... the **Smiths** look likely to split after a rift between Johnny Marr and Morrissey. **Strangeways Here We Come** looks like being their last album... **Springsteen** is back in the studio... after their recent suit against Nike shoes for using 'Revolution' in an ad, the surviving **Beatles** are now suing Capitol for delays releasing Beatle CDs. Their lawyer

claims it's the company's way of getting the band to drop their eight-year suit over **Abbey Road** royalties.

**LL Cool J** was recently fined \$250 for "lewdness on stage" — simulating sexual intercourse. "He was on a sofa hunching up and down and carrying on," said the Ohio police chief. Ohio brought in new obscenity laws after the **Beastie Boys** caused an uproar... teenagers imitating the Beasties 'Fight For Your Right to Party' video caused \$350,000 worth of damage when a luxury house was gutted by fire in Washington... meanwhile British Beastie fans are stealing 300 Volkswagen badges a day. VW are now selling the badges by mailorder to prevent the vandalism.

**Terence Trent D'Arby** was involved in a fight outside a London theatre. The heckling bystander didn't realise young Ter was once a Golden Gloves champ.

Former toilet seat fitter **Bill Withers** ('Lean On Me') is the latest to have a hit used for an ad: 'Lovely

Day' now extols the virtues of Ford Escorts. Meanwhile, post-**Platoon** 'Tracks of My Tears' now means Budweiser... Shock! **Bill Wyman** was seen at Island Records 25th anniversary bash with a woman old enough to be his mother!... **Wilson Pickett** is in a New Jersey court, facing charges relating back three years, when he allegedly fired a gun at one of the **Isley Brothers** while on a hunting trip. Pickett, who claims he didn't know the gun was loaded, is now on Motown with a new LP **American Soul Man**... **Ronnie Spector** is back with **Unfinished Business**, with the title track by **Gregory Abbott**... **Run DMC's** *Tougher Than Leather* movie should be out in the US by late August.

## Christchurch

Canterbury Polytech's **Plain Radio** is back on air from August 3 to 18 on 92.1 FM, while **Radio U** recently held a successful Kiwi music only day... South American? are now

a four-piece and touring and recording under the name **South American Big Band**... the **Smitherens** are now **Big Game Hunters**... **Worlds Apart** are recording an album at Nightshift without the assistance of guitarist Jodie Bell who won a trip for two to England off a tube of toothpaste!... **Churchills** have a new bassist, Paul Thompson, and hope to tour mid-August.

**Flying Nun** news: the **Chills** proved to be a hit at the New Music Seminar in New York and they have a new album recorded... members of **Max Block** now living in Sydney will team up with the **Bats** for their last Aussie date, and with the **Verlaines** on the first date of their tour, on August 28... **Tall Dwarfs**, after packing the Old Star for the *Jesus on a Stick* party, recorded an EP at Nightshift... keep an eye out for a 45 by **Rex Bourke's Strange Love**.

**Martin McPherson** has left his post at the Youth Centre. **Bridgette Hanrahan** from the Court Theatre will be taking over... after a successful Dole Day gig and Saturday night with the **Bats**, the **New Zealander** looks set to become an alternative venue which should help out some of the local bands wondering where to play. Anyone interested phone **Running Promotions** on 64-324. **John Greenfield**

## Wellington

The **Cricketers** have reverted to weekend gigs after dropping **Sneaky Feelings** for a covers band and disco. They will vary their licensing hours depending on gigs. A sigh of relief passed over the town after the possibility of losing weekends of local and touring bands... tenders are out for the operation of the Council's **Chews Lane** underage venue, but the restrictive contract riders make it a dodgy proposition... **No 9** have their album *Nowhere Fast* re-released on Jayrem and are touring north in August and September... also out on Jayrem is the *Hardedge Compilation* compiled by Gerald Dwyer with **No Idea**, **Compos Mentis**, **Five Year Mission** and **Flesh D-Vice**... **Compos Mentis** have their final vinyl, a 7" EP 'Backlash' out backed with three tracks from South African band Powerage... **Besser and Prosser** have released (*Volume II*) *Forms and Gestures*, music for piano and violin on Kiwi Pac-  
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## EMI Factory Closes Pressing Plant for NZ Music

New Zealand's only record pressing plant, **EMI in Lower Hutt**, is to close at the end of September — a move that has major implications, particularly for this country's independent record labels.

The decision, which EMI attribute to the rise in CD and cassette sales, means that all vinyl records sold here will have to be imported. Several of the major labels, whose parent companies have pressing plants overseas, already import many or all of their albums. But for the indies, who will have to send their tapes overseas to be pressed, the closure means greatly increased costs in administration and freight, which could result in higher record prices

and fewer local acts being released.

"I think it's wrong in a country the size of New Zealand that we can't sustain some type of pressing plant," says Tim Murdoch, head of WEA and president of the Recording Industry Association. "If the pressings are going to be sourced out of Australia, you're at the whim of the Australian companies, and obviously there will be less records released, as New Zealand companies will have to be more selective than they were in the past."

With several companies already importing their general release records, prices shouldn't immediately be affected, but the inconvenience of ordering stock from Australia will be tested during the peak selling months leading to Christmas. "The acid test will be to see how long things are held up by Customs for clearance," says Brian Pitts of Virgin Records.

The plant closure is a nuisance, says Jim Moss of Jayrem: "It's going to make it very difficult for our sort of business, which tends to be in smaller runs. We're going to have to take more risks. How many do you get pressed? What if something takes off, how long are you out of stock? We'll just have to adapt, I guess."

Distribution through the major companies is one way for the inde-

pendent labels to keep in operation, says Tim Murdoch. "We're looking after Warrior and Maui Records and they won't notice any difference. They'll still bring their tapes to us and we'll make the records, just the same."

"What worries me," says Jim Moss, "is all these little labels — the Skank Records, Meltdown, Rational, the list goes on — what are they going to do? They're a valuable part of the industry. If Skank Records want to do their own thing, how are they going to do it? I don't think they should be told, 'Oh you've got to go along to Jim Moss, and let him organise it for you,' and I'm the big brother who distributes the records. It would worry me if those small labels all ended up being cassette labels, because a lot of people like records."

"It's as though the whole thing has been brought upon us, and internationally the decision's been made, and for lovers of black plastic, tough is the message. It's almost impossible to sell records to some retail chains now — all they're interested in is compact discs and cassettes." With capital tied up in CDs, stores are stocking less vinyl records.

But vinyl isn't dead — there will always be acts that sell better on vinyl than other forms, just as some acts

(reggae, for example) sell mostly on cassette. Also, although the death-knell for the 7" single has been sounded for some time, that is the most convenient medium for radio to use. "Are radio going to accept cartridges — what's going to happen?" says Moss. "If radio are going to support New Zealand music, and the vinyl manufacturing is being taken away from us, we're going to have to get together and work out some alternative for getting music on radio."

While the increase in CD and cassette sales is one reason for the decline in vinyl production here, some companies have been importing all their records recently. Tim Murdoch: "There are two sides to the coin. CBS and Polygram, two of the biggest companies, took their pressings away from EMI because they could get them cheaper in Australia. That's probably accelerated this situation. I can understand CBS because they own their own factory in Australia, whereas Polygram don't have a factory there, so they are now in a reliant situation."

"I was always very conscious of that — that we didn't have a factory to call on in Australia, and that EMI had looked after us for a number of years, so we should support them. I think that had the New Zealand industry been a little more long-sighted and

supportive, 'support your local sheriff,' this wouldn't have come about. But then you'll get the argument that the service from EMI was second-rate, and at times I'd have to agree with them." One music company source said it could sometimes be quicker to order pressings from Australia than locally.

Is there any chance that another pressing plant will be started? Modern pressing equipment would be available from American companies that have closed — because of the decline in vinyl production. Brian Pitts: "The fall in the manufacturing figures for LPs is so dramatic there's no reason to suppose that the same rate of fall isn't going to continue." Tim Murdoch thinks it's unlikely that a co-operative pressing plant will happen — the RIANZ's constitution prevents it from setting one up — but Jim Moss says, "There are already some noises being made. I've had a couple of calls from people who are reasonably financial who are interested in putting a group together."

"We're just going to have to adapt. If it looks as if there isn't going to be a New Zealand plant, if the efforts of the people looking at buying a plant don't come off, I'll just have to visit Australia and get organised."

**Chris Bourke**

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## the Johnnys



## AUGUST TOUR

Wed 12th Aug ALBERT MOTOR LODGE, PALMERSTON NORTH  
Thurs 13th Aug CABANA, NAPIER  
Sat 15th Aug FOSTERS TAVERN, WANGANUI  
Tues 18th Aug VICTORIA UNI (Tickets at the Opera House)  
With special guests from Melbourne OLYMPIC SIDEBURNS  
Wed 19th Aug TUDOR TOWERS, ROTORUA, plus OLYMPIC SIDEBURNS  
Thurs 20th Aug ROXOF, HAMILTON, plus OLYMPIC SIDEBURNS  
Fri/Sat 21st & 22nd Aug GALAXY (Tickets at St James)  
With special guests from Melbourne OLYMPIC SIDEBURNS

ANOTHER LOONEY TOUR