

RUMOURS

Wellington

Skank Undertakings have reopened the Rock Theatre in Vivian St as a live music venue. Bookings on (04) 267-346 ... **Skank Attack** have recorded a new single at Withe Studios ... the **Wild Poppies** also have a new single; they will tour north in late September ... the **Crawbilly Creeps** have recorded an album ... **Nazgul** have a 7" EP out, with one side recorded live at the very suc-

cessful Breakout gig ... **Wazzo Ghotti** were the highlight of the Breakout show giving out chocolate fish. Drummer Joe continues to improve in Wellington hospital and the group will continue as a three-piece using guest drummers until Joe is fit. Their album *Gone Ghoting* is due at the end of September and they are working on a video.

Bill Dieren's South Indies label has just filled an order of 50 records to New York via Flying Nun ... the **Jonas** have their LP coming out on new indie label Lost in Space Records ... **Kiwi Zoo** have a new guitarist and are gigging again, and along with a lot of other local bands are

rushing too get on vinyl before the EMI pressing plant closes this month. Despite rumours and even encouragement from EMI management it doesn't look as though any locals will be taking over the EMI plant. Even leasing is out of the question because EMI want the plant removed from the building as they need the space ... local indie labels are busy investigating Australian plants and it seems that good pressing and printing deals can be had. Digital mastering of local product will be the next move in preparation for sending masters overseas and losing contact with the cutting.

Downstage theatre have begun

fortnightly early Sunday evening jazz and blues shows ... the **Novelty 4** have a residency upstairs at Clare's ... new bands **Faith, Hope** and **Hanify** and **Cowboys and Indians**, the latter resident at the Romney ... Stasch now known as **C'est La Vie** ... the **Juke Jivers** are to take over from the **Living Daylights** at the Pavilion Bar, alternating weeks with the **Holidaymakers**. **John Pilley**

Auckland

Winners at New Plymouth's "No Ordinary Band" contest in late August were **Sticky Filth**, who won \$1000 plus \$1000 of recording time at Mandrill. They were also invited by Spencer of the **Johnnys** to play in Australia with them. Judges gave special mentions to **Harry Death** and **Cygnat Committee** ... **Three Men Missing**

have finished a five-track EP at the LP *Days on the Island*.

The **Bats** rang from Sydney, where they'd played three gigs to "small, but good" crowds. They'd played to 800 with the **Go-Betweens** in Melbourne, and have done "lots of interviews, more than playing." Also, they've checked out pressing plants such as Melbourne's "small, trustworthy" The Pressing Plant, owned by the **Painters & Dockers**. "A lot of Australians have been wondering why more NZ bands don't come over," says Paul Kean. "It's a fertile environment here, and gigs are cheap: we're \$4, Ed Keupper \$6, the Go-Betweens \$8 — and PAs are cheaper."

Dead Famous People still await the arrival of their Liverpoolian drummer, before they tour in November ... the **Four Volts**, touring the

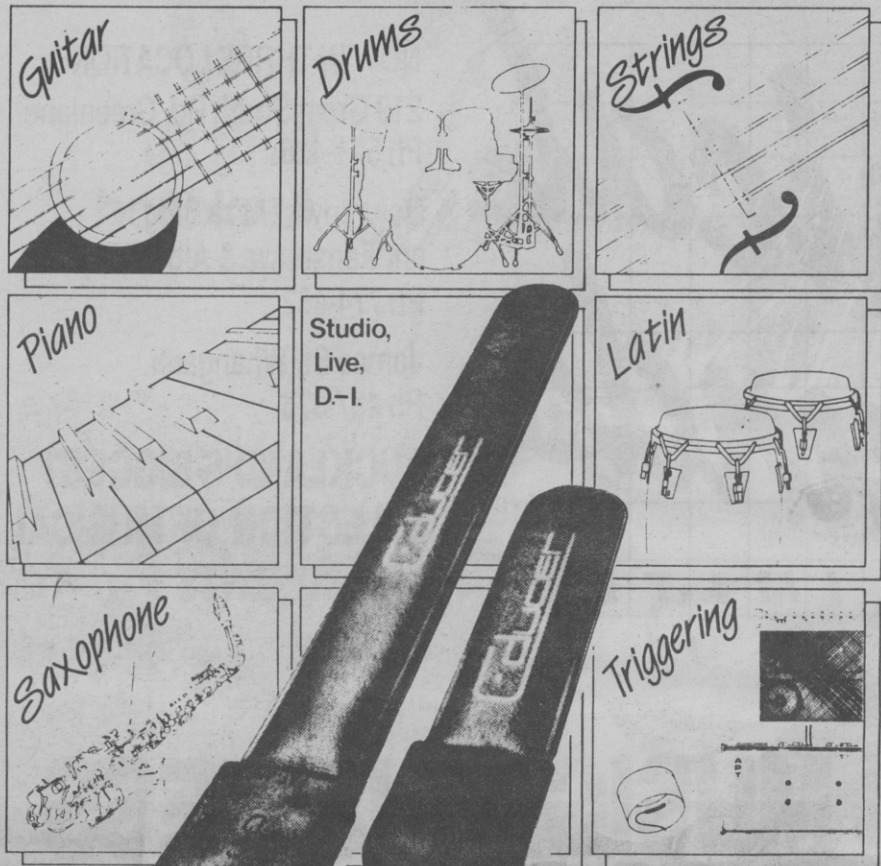
South Island in October, report their LP *Some Things Burning* is being distributed in UK ... over 100 people have applied to enter the \$30,000 **Rheineck Rock Awards** already. The closing date is October 1, for an application form write to Rheineck Rock Award, PO Box 5779, Wellesley St, Auckland ... the **Narcs** have been rehearsing at Progressive, for a possible album produced by **Chris Thompson** ... Palmerston North's **The End** tour the South Island soon, in anticipation of a nationwide tour and release of their LP *The Ultimate Game* in December.

South

So, once again the venue situation changes and we're all left wondering if we should go back to the garage. Even before the first band could get on stage the **New Zealander** changed its mind about "alternative" bands; across the road the **King George** has hosted two lowkey Dole Day gigs, run by Campbell "Onset Offset" McLay; the **Old Star** has lost its late licence, but with **Fat Sally** away, we've had the **Gladstone** back for three weeks. In those three weeks we've had an all-day **Greenpeace** concert, organised by **Jamie Verhyde**, that raised over \$1200.

Murder Inc will have played their last gig by the time you've read this, as drummer Nick Ruddell is heading for Sydney, and the rest of the band are also considering the move ... we've got a "Six of the Best" song contest run in conjunction with **Audio Access**. Not to be confused with the Mobil Song Contest or a battle of the bands, the idea is that over six nights 18 bands, not previously on vinyl, get to do their thing with their three best songs being judged to find six bands with the six best songs. All proceeds from the week will go to recording

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