

## RUMOURS

### Christchurch

At the Christchurch Town Hall on Monday May 10 are D.D. Smash, Hip Singles, Screaming Meemees and Dance Exponents. The show is to be videoed for *Shazam* and RWP clips ... D.D. Smash's Hillsborough week was the highest gross by any band there, ever, nearly two years to the day after Dave Dobbyn was last there with Th' Dudes.

Bill Dieren and associates yet again try something new. This time it's *Soluble Fish* — a theatre-film-poetry-music-soup featuring local actors and musicians. They will appear early week at Star and Garter and at the Elmwood theatre before taking the review to the coast.

Expect to see Janis Gray and Helen Mulholland working with Louie & the Hotsticks soon. The band will record a 45 with a view to Radio Avon's playlist ... Dick Driver is not yet married, he is however to enter hospital soon for an operation. The Hip Singles play Auckland dates early July ... Dance Exponents have a new soundman (Roland Killeen) and a new van (ex Clean Bedford).

Iksta is Jos Hodzelman's latest exploit. Jos hangs himself nightly ... also new are Hot Gobblins and Aryan Army ... Leon Kerns has left Nude Wrestling and has been replaced by Alan Johnson of Zero Bars ... Cowboys are renegotiating with the Carlton for residency.

Some long awaited releases are finally available. These include a Pin Group 12-inch EP, a Ballon D'Essai three track EP and the Builders new 7-inch EP ... Roger Shepherd will book the Star and Garter from late May ... Desperate Measures will venture to Dunedin for Queen's Birthday weekend. Their single sleeve will feature a sneak photo of them at a prison gig.

Those who need work are: Luke Neary, soundman/PA fixer (Yo Yo, Thumbs of Brass) ph 894710, Linda Stuart lighting lady (Hip Singles — own dimmer pack etc) ph 68107, artist Paul Smith (designed new Hip Singles and Dance Exponents posters) ph 488579, for S.I. transport a truck is available from Brent Delaney (ph 890138) and for printing, Ronnie Harris (793428). Expect to see his band soon.

Mainly Spaniards will support Meemees Aranui (May 14, 15) before going to Star and Garter (21, 22) ... Rex Visible's band is We Too ... Head Injuries have split. Jim Wilson & Peter Waller

### Auckland

The D.D. Smash debut, *Cool Bananas* topped the sales charts first week out! After their tour the band will only play two or three Auckland gigs before leaving for Australia in June.

The *Three Piece Pack* EP on Furtive is out at the end of May. Tracks are: 'Nervous Tension' (Bongos), 'Circles' (Prime Movers), 'Remember When' (Dabs) and 'Last Orders' from Palmerston North four piece the Skeptics ... the single off Blams' *Luxury Length* album is 'Call for Help'. Don McGlashan has produced a four track Propeller EP for Green Eggs and Ham.

New Clean 12" EP out soon is titled *Great Sounds Great, Good Sounds Good, So So Sounds So So, Bad Sounds Bad, and Rotten Sounds Rotten*. Tracks are: 'Fish', 'Flowers', 'Slug Song', 'Side On', 'Beatnik', 'End of My Dream', 'On Again-Off Again'.

If *This Is Paradise I'll Take The Bag* from the Screaming Meemees is due out late May. Tracks are: 'Your Accent', 'Days Of Heaven', 'Day Goes By', 'Hardly Moved By It', 'What Do Eyes See', 'Sunday Boys', 'F Is For Fear', 'Coloured Day', 'Orson Welles', 'Dali's Moustache', 'Miro Miro'.

The *Rockin in the Street* LP, on Ori, with four tracks each from

Rank and File, Wild Matadors, Blue Flames and Shakin' Jimmys, has to be pressed again because the Blue Flames' tracks went on at the wrong speed.

James Pinker and Karl (ex Features, ex Fetus Productions) were in town over Easter en route to the US, and UK with artful Sydney band SPK ... new venue is the Tavern Lounge, DB Hotel, Wellesley Street. Open Thurs to Sat, with DAF, Pigbag, Simple Minds, Human League, etc, played over top sound system, plus local material, and maybe some video. \$1 at the door.

Remember Andy Anderson of *Radio Waves*? He's just won top Oz TV award for his part in the new *Sullivan's* series ... Tom Sharplin has a single on RCA called 'Endless Sleep' a UK hit in 1958 for Marty Wilde and the Wildcats.

The Coalition are ex Herco Pilots Chris Williams and Hugh Turcel plus Chris Todd, and Peter Williams. Expect to see them playing around the streets of Wellington May 12-17 ... So You Wanna Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star, Dudes 12" compilation mini album out soon on Stebbing's Key label. Tracks are: 'Be Mine Tonight', 'That Look In Your Eyes', 'Right First Time', 'Walking in Light', 'Bliss', plus previously unreleased 'Song of Hope' ... Hello Sailor 12" compilation mini album also due out on Key. Titled *Last Chance to Dance*, tracks are: 'Blue Lady', 'Latin Lover', 'Gutter Black', 'Tears of Blood', 'I'm a Texan', and maybe previously unreleased 'Here Comes Johnny' ... Danse Macabre will be incognito for three weeks, finishing material for their album. They'll record at Mandrill, May/June.

*Hits & Myths Vol. 2* out by June. Includes tracks from Toy Love, Split Enz, D.D. Smash, Meemees, Blams, Spaces, Newmatics Graeme Gash etc ... Alastair Riddell has completed a new album at Mandrill ... Dave McLean's band is Dave McLean's Little Criminals with McLean on vocals/guitar, Steve Hubbard guitar/vocals (ex Hotshots), Greg Denime, bass/vocals, Rob Peters, drums/vocals (ex Furys). The Corporation

### Australia

Birthday Party bassist, Tracy

Pew will rejoin the band soon as he's able. He's been sentenced to four months for drunken driving and petty theft. Barry Adamson (Magazine) has taken his place meantime, and plays on two tracks on new album *Junkyard ... the Go Betweens* (Missing Link) have signed with Rough Trade for UK and US.

### The Corporation

#### Industry

Kiwis Graeme Regan, and Christopher Read (ex Chelsea Records Wellington) have teamed with Martin Jennings and established independent distribution network through NSW called *Hot Record Distributors* — first releases include the Clean's *Boodle Boodle* on Flying Nun. Hot Records will also be distributing Sydney indie label, Prince Melon.

CBS PR person Sara Robinson has left the company to rep for Bascands Ltd, a Christchurch based publishing company. She'll continue in PR on a freelance basis ... EMI's new national promotions manager is Sandy Hodge (ex operations manager Radio Windy).

The Pigbag UK Top 10 album *Papa's Got A Brand New Pigbag* (Y label) will be distributed locally on Powderworks (via RCA). The Corporation

## VIDEO

RCA establishes a separate video division in June for product release on a national basis in July ... *Variety* reports sales of video-cassette recorders topped the million mark in the US for 1981. (In NZ it's estimated there are about 16,000 units in homes.)

Forthcoming releases from Video Power include *Flash Gordon* and *Mandingo*. Music titles due out: *The Average White Band*, Elton John at *New York Central Park*, *Boontown Rats*, and *Jubilee* with Adam Ant. New from Warners: *Green Berets* with John Wayne, *Summer of 42*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *A Star is Born*, *Magnum Force*, *Death in Venice*, *Rod Stewart Live at the LA Forum*, and *Devo, The Men Who Make the Music*. Warners have the world wide rights to distribute United Artists films, the first of

which will be released next month. These include Bond films, *From Russia With Love*, and *Goldfinger*.

New from RTC Video: *55 Days At Peking*, *El Cid*, *The Fall of the Roman Empire* and a host of horrors: *Creeping Flesh*, *Curse of the Crimson Alter*, *Haunted House of Horror*, *Blood Beast Terror*, *Blood Money* and *Mistress of the Apes*.

GR Television and Video NZ are finalizing distribution for 20th Century Fox, and anticipate a launch in May/June. First 15 titles include 9 to 5, *An Unmarried Woman*, *The Rose*, *Norma Rae*, *Brubaker*, and *Peter Allen and the Rockettes*.

## MEDIA

To FM, or not to FM, how to FM, and who will FM. These are the questions the Broadcasting Tribunal is trying to decide on.

There are now four main contenders vying for the two Auckland licenses: Radio New Zealand (ZM), Metropolitan FM (Ian Magan, Concert Promotions, and Robin McKay ex Windy/4MMM FM Brisbane etc), FM Radio Enterprises (51% shares held by Stebbings) and Stereo FM (Tony Amos, Allan Rutledge, Raymond Curle, Wilson & Horton etc).

Hauraki Enterprises withdrew its FM application when it became apparent competitor ZM may continue noncommercially, possibly in addition to a new FM competitor, disintegrating Auckland's audience and revenue for radio.

However, RNZ is still trying for a commercial FM warrant for the ZM stations, targeting for a 15-35 year old age group with a 20-30 core. If ZM were given a licence they'd broadcast exactly the same programmed on AM as FM for several months 'to familiarize the existing ZM audience with FM,' says Auckland station manager Graham Bolton. Hopes for a broader ZM outlook were dashed when Bolton told the tribunal that although albums such as D.D. Smash's *Cool Bananas* get to No. 1, research shows people don't want such music on the radio.

Metropolitan FM is targeting for

the 25-44 year olds, with a "balance of old and new music" — Richard Clayderman, and Art Garfunkel balanced by Fleetwood Mac and Sharon O'Neill. Metropolitan FM will support local music only if it fits their format.

FM Enterprises are looking at the same age group as Metropolitan, feeding a diet of MOR, easy listening, popular classical, modern and country and western.

Stereo FM is the only applicant going for a "contemporary rock / 'album orientated' sound. The company has also formed a trust to help NZ musicians in promotion and legal matters. Stereo FM will target for the 18-39 year old market, focusing on 18-30.

It's anybody's guess when a decision will be made, or how many appeals will hold up the process, but it looks like the only possibility for relief (if there is any offering here) from the current safe-as-milk/high rotate radio programming is Stereo FM.

AnnLouise Martin

## FILM

### Reds

Director: Warren Beatty

Or ... how Hollywood managed to make a box office bonanza out of the rise of the American communist movement. In all seriousness, though, Beatty has made a worthy film, even if it is a trifle on the long side.

There is much that is successful here: the way in which the film is able to cover so much historical and social mileage through the in-



Bruno Lawrence, 'Battletruck'.

terplay of the three main characters (fine performances from Diane Keaton, Jack Nicholson and Beatty himself), the very look of the film itself with its gallery of faces that have genuinely experienced the weathering of time to, of all surprises, a score by Stephen Sondheim.

The 196-minute length is a problem at times, but on the whole Beatty's directorial touch is much more assured than it was in the 1978 *Heaven Can Wait*, apart from the occasional indulgence in tricky editing — which we can blame on the Russians anyway ...

### Absence of Malice

Director: Sydney Pollack

Sally Field as a hound dog reporter investigating the criminal alliances and associations of liquor merchant Paul Newman. The major problem of the film is already apparent and that is associating such a character with a 'star' of Newman's stature. This forces other compromises in the movie, until what could have been a totally engrossing movie on the responsibilities of investigative journalism ends up being another slick Hollywood assembly line product.

### On Golden Pond

Director: Mark Rydell

Stanley Kramer is alive and well, and working under the pseudonym of Mark Rydell ... well, not quite, but the whole ambience of *Golden Pond* is something similar to an underplayed Kramer piece. A difficult film to be critical about with nostalgia ruling the day and Hepburn and Fonda proving that they certainly don't make stars like they used to.

William Dart



Phil Judd, 'Starstruck'.

## SOON...

*Dance Craze* ... British Ska movie out in June. Includes the Specials, Madness, the Beat (filmed in action on US tour), Selector, Bad Manners, and the Bodysnatchers. Follows the release of the *Dance Craze* album a year ago.

*Starstruck* ... an Australian film directed by Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*). Soundtrack features music by Phil Judd and Tim Finn. Judd compositions 'Gimme Love', and 'Starstruck' are performed by the Swingers in the movie. The plot involves two cousins, Jacki (Jo Kennedy) and Angus (Ross O'Donovan). Angus is hellbent on making Jackie a rock star. Opens May 10.

*Christiane F* ... opens late May. It's based on the true story of a 12 year old heroin addict who turns hooker at 13 to support her habit. Directed by West German Ulrich Edel, it includes scenes of David Bowie in concert.

*Battletruck* ... local production from Lloyd Phillips, and Rob Whitehouse, it stars Michael Beck, James Wainwright, Annie McEnroe, and Bruno Lawrence. *Battletruck* is set in the future "after the oil wars", everyone splits to the country to grow their own, but they're up against the evil Straker, and his Battletruck. Released May 7.

*Enter the Ninja* ... Ninja — a warrior from a select, ruthless organization, often commissioned to work for the Samurai. Features Franco Nero, and Susan George. Released nationally May 28.

*Lady Chatterley's Lover* ... based on the book with Sylvia Kristel (the *Emanuelle* movies, *Street-walker*) as leading lady. Out May 14.

*Naked Fist* ... erotic Kung Fu. Late May.

# Braziers

# LEGIONNAIRES

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