

this coloumn, drop into the Contact 89FM office at the University of Waikato.

JUSTIN HARRIS

HAWKES BAY

**Beat Not Fish** have been touring central North Island. With their CD at the mixing stage, they're preparing for its release shortly ... ex Hawkes Bay country singer **Glen Moffat** returned to Napier recently, playing a gig at Mossy's backed by **the Pickups** to promote his upcoming release ... Mossy's is interested in any touring solos or duos contemplating putting Napier on their itinerary. Contact Tony (06)844-5245 ... **Static Black** have been playing out of town gigs and will be concentrating on the Wellington scene. They have also been booked to play in the *Rescue Rock* series of concerts in support of AIDS awareness. They have also been recording at the Stomach in Palmerston North, and hope to release a demo CD in November ... **Dusty Rhodes Bluesmobile** are now down to a trio with the departure of keyboard player Badger. The band have been playing in semi unplugged situations ... the original songwriter contest is on again this year, with a changed format. Once again, it is organised by Hype Productions and sponsored by the Music Machine. More details to follow ... support slots gained by local bands recently include **Static Black for the Nixons** and **Woody Allen's Daughter** for the **Muttonbirds** ... **Hannay** has just completed his studio and is planning an opening celebration shortly. Main priorities include a new **Hanging Tree** recording along with various other local acts ... **Mike Hallett and the Glow Babies** have released a five track tape of older original material.

TONY PARKER

PALMERSTON NORTH

The **Shoeshine** CD is on its way. Now, a split album between **Shoeshine** and **the Ashvins**, this should be out towards the end of May. The CD will feature a mixture of studio and live recordings, plus a track from Christchurch's **Whitey Hiss** ... **Next Big Thing** have recorded in Wanganui ... **Claire's UnNatural Twin** recently played Christchurch and Dunedin to support their self-titled 7", the first release to be cut in Foxton. Hopefully within about six months or so the record pressing plant should be fully operational ... **E-Haw** plan some recording and a release for May/June ... **State Of Hate** support Sick Of It All in Wellington ... **Dog Tooth Violet** and **the Ashvins** play the **Mushroom Ball** ... the **New Royal** is under new management, with things not looking too good for noisy original bands. We are trying to find a new venue at the moment. Watch out for developments ... bands recording at the Stomach lately have been **Meat Market**, **Paranymph**, **State of Hate**, **Nacho Mama**, **Livids**, **Ashvins**, **Shoeshine**, **Prozac** and **Anodyne**.

ROB WILLIAMS

WELLINGTON

The **Roots Foundation** are again making plenty of good nosies of late at the Edward Street venue. The dance hall beats and the odd free tequila is giving a

balmy reggae feel to chilly Welly ... along the same lines, **DJ Koa** has been in town. His good mate **Roast Chicken** must be congratulated for being the man (or chicken) behind the successful African Headcharge tour ... **Short** are recording demos at Marmalade (this is the studio that have recorded that most Number One hits in New Zealand). Expect an EP or album out soon ... Pete from **Bilge Festival** has disappeared up North for a while, to perform some the-atics. Mark from aforementioned Bilge has a new band in the wings ... **Wayne Mason** is nearing completion point on his solo album, and will begin mixing with producer Nigel Stone this month ... new bands in town include **Jawload**, **Cow Catcher** and the electronic **Oblique** ... **Sump** have been working on their debut album. If Active's *Uncharted* doesn't win the Mobil radio awards, **Sump** have threatened to set fire to a service station using the master tapes as an accelerant ... **Bailterspace** release the single 'Splat' this month, and the album *Wammo* will follow in June ... the **Truckstop** practice rooms have been receiving numerous noise complaints of late. The band are thinking of becoming a gang, as the Wellington City Council don't bother serving gang headquarters with noise control notices ... **Plankton** have finished their demo ... former **Robber Dog** Rob Joass has a new band called the **Rain Lovers**. The band contains members of the **Brainchilds** and **Bilge Festival** ... **Head Like A Hole** took the big step to the the old lands recently — armed with plenty of guitar strings and spraypaint ... **Bar Bodega** might have to give in to the bastards and move because of the new planned motorway. Several sites are being considered, but wherever it is, all great live bands will be welcome (Fraser assures us) ... other new venues are the **Planet** (old Ecstasy Plus), and downstairs at **Tatou** — catering to the alternative element? Well, maybe.

DONALD REID

CHRISTCHURCH

**Ape Management** are releasing two recently recorded tracks, 'Big Hair' and 'Defenesatrate Me', on 7" vinyl on **Home Bacon** records ... **Squirm** have recorded 12 tracks at the Stomach in Palmerston North and are looking for ways to release and distribute in New Zealand and overseas ... **Cinematic** are reording with Bart at Redd Acoustics, with new drummer Thomas ... **Dark Tower's** CD release is finally getting closer ... **Loves Ugly Children** recorded 22 tracks for their forthcoming Flying Nun album at Fish Street in Dunedin, as well as an ABBA cover for Flying Nun's ABBA tribute compilation ... **Burn** have split ... a new label from Xpressway's Bruce Russell, called **Corpus Heomition**, is to be in Lyttelton ... **Trawler** have finished a video for 'Drive' which should be appearing on Cry TV soon ... **Hampster** are touring Europe in June, which will include 32 dates in Norway, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and dates in England, Holland and Switzerland ... **Dave Yetton** (ex JPSE) is new production engineer at RDU ... rumours say a new label is starting in Christchurch called **Bent Records** ... Mike Hex is leaving **Ape Mangagement** to concentrate on **Squirm** ... **Wadd** are set to release a six track, self released CD recorded at Nightshift

... **Geek** have recorded four demo tracks at Nightshift studios ... listen out for **the Sullivans** (apparently) ... **Leonard Nimoy** are planning new recordings to be produced by Tim, the Dr Lovegland Sound System producer ... new demos on RDU from **Dark Tower**, **Sifter** and **the Mothgo** ... recording at the moment are **Atomic Blossom** and **Holocene** ... listen out for overseas tour news from **Salmonella Dub** with an international act ... **RIP 96FM** are looking at a regular demo slot for local music ... **Snort** are heading North in the next couple of months ... congrats to Pumpkinhead's **Brent Milligan** on 'Most Promising Male Vocalist' award at the *New Zealand Music Awards* — good publicity for their new album ... congrats also to **Rainy Taxi**, **Geek**, **Daggar Soup**, **Flower**, **Debris**, **Chicane**, **Snort**, **Disgraceland**, **Holocene**, **Teen Angel**, **Sifter**, **Tempest**, **the Tardigrades**, **Trawler**, **Atomic Blossom** and **Human** for reaching the semi-finals of *Operation Music Storm* ... any rumours, phone 379-6320.

HAT

DUNEDIN

Biggest news locally has been the death of **Eddie Chin**, who has been involved in many venues over the decades — his family still own **Sammy's** and the **Crown Hotel** ... it is rumoured that the upcoming **Sebadoh** gig in June will see the end of Sammy's as a live venue. It may be turning into a pool hall!!! ... the *Sex and Drugs in New Zealand Literature Symposium* run by **Super 8** was a wild success, seeing many strange and esoteric events taking place all over the city ... **Brendan Hoffman** of Volt Studios has just returned from two weeks of schmoozing with **Sub Pop**, including sliding down the slopes of Aspen on a plastic bag ... **Operation Music Storm** (the South Island based band battle) is about to hit town, with the final to be held in Sammy's on May 19 ... **Sean O'Reilley** is in town and may be doing some recording with some old friends ... **IMD** is set to

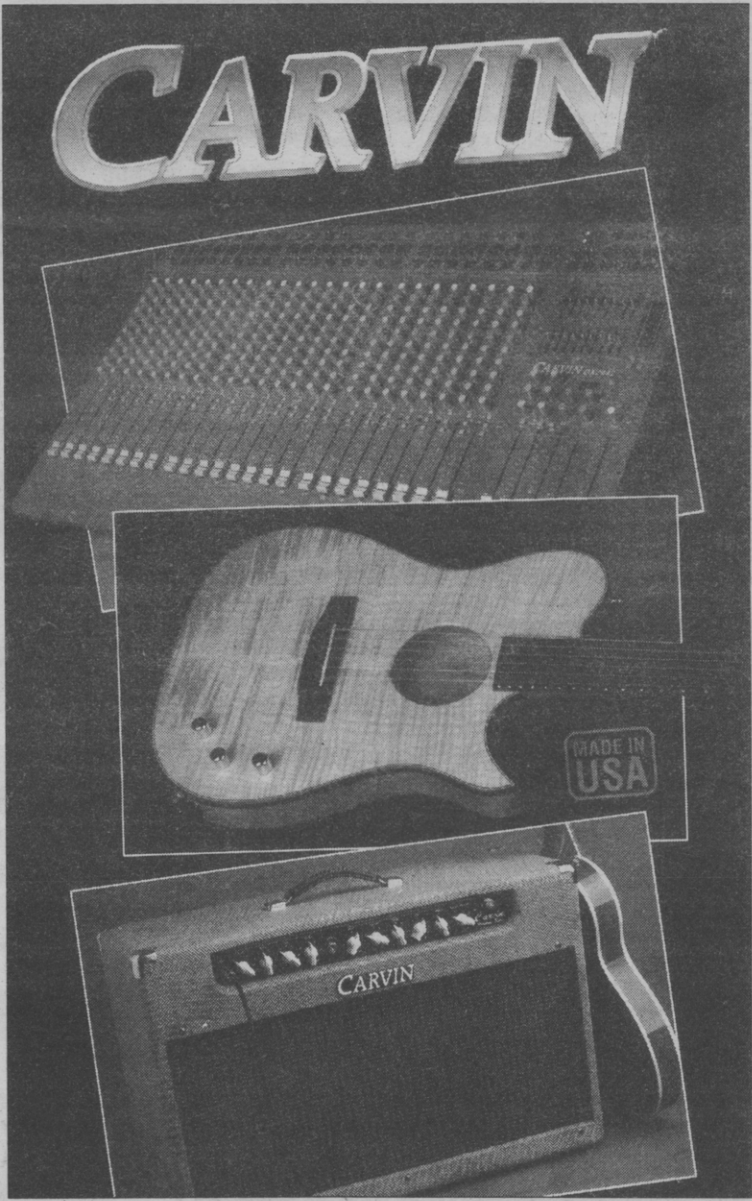
release a compilation of local artists later this year ... new band **Cicada**, heavily influenced by Can is set to debut around town ... **Nimrod** have changed their name to **Suka**, due to two other bands having similar names overseas. Their debut CD entitled *Nimrod Diabolique*, on IMD, is due out in June, as is *Forever Bled Hollow* by **Swarm** (Atomic Action is still to release a vinyl version), who are set to make a video for new song 'Migration' ... **Radio One** have a new recording engineer **Robin Murphy**... The recent **Radio One** gig saw a rare appearance by **The April Fools**, **David Kilgour**, **Martin Phillipps** and **Alan Haig**, who performed all new material with the exception of a glorious version of 'Pink Frost' ... the *Dunedin Pacific Islands Festival* was held recently and drew large crowds to the Octagon and Town Hall. Highlights included hand made vhelele's, great food and performances by the local Pacific Island Community.

DAVID MUIR

NEW PLYMOUTH

What is wrong with New Plymouth? Heaps! That's what. **Sick Of It All** played in New Plymouth as part of their first New Zealand tour. It was the most negative, unfriendly place they played. Their drummer, Armand, called it a new low in the life of Sick Of It All. As to why this became their view of New Plymouth, here are some reasons: some not-so-smart person spraying beer all over the guitarist in the first 30 seconds of the first song; the majority of the audience displaying a cooler and tougher than thou attitude; and the apparently true story of two members of **Nefarious** shooting up backstage just before their set. How come this redneck waster attitude appears to be so prevalent amongst New Plymouth's music culture? Maybe it is a follow on from the time when the only place any sort of punk, metal or whatever gig could happen was at the White Hart. Because of the

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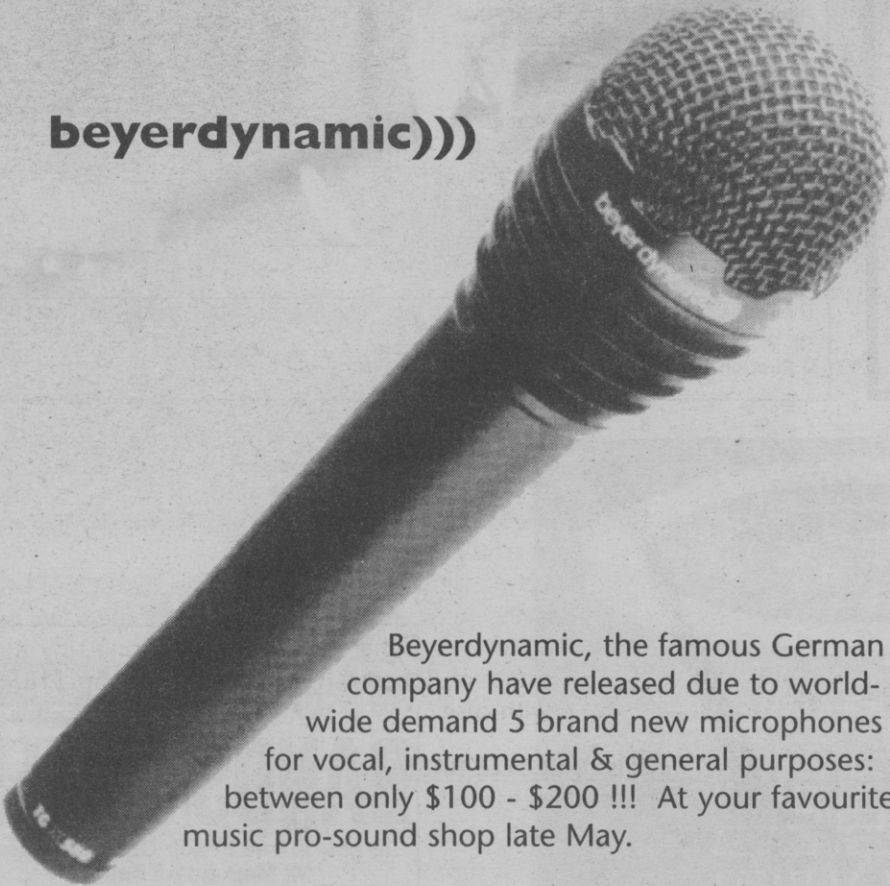
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