

SMALL STUFF

The Latest and the Greatest Rock News

In California **Ton Waits**, that lovable drunk, was found not guilty of disturbing the peace after he'd been in a scuffle with a plain-clothes sheriff . . . a bit of film news **Milos Forman** (director of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) is to be the director of the movie version of the musical, *Hair* . . . and a bio film of Buddy Holly's life is also currently being considered. A possible Buddy Holly is Willie de Ville of New York group, Mink de Ville. If you've never heard of him, don't be surprised . . . meanwhile, Martin Scorsese director of *Taxi Driver*, *Alice Doesn't Live Here* etc is putting together a film to be called *The Last Waltz* which will feature footage from The Band's farewell-to-performing concert with Van Morrison, Bob Dylan, Muddy Waters, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Neil Diamond, Ronnie Hawkins, Eric Clapton etc, etc. Other acts shot in the US and Europe, may also be included . . . black musical *The Wiz*, based on the *The Wizard of Oz*, which has played on Broadway for some time, is now to be made into a film. It will feature **Michael Jackson** of the Jacksons, **Diana Ross**, **Richard Pryor** and **Bill Cosby** . . . **Ronnie Lane**, late of the Faces, played a gig in the carpark of his local pub in Shropshire, *The Drum and Monkey*. He was joined by mates Tom McGuinness (late of McGuinness - Flint), Eric Clapton (late of . . .), and occasional Rolling Stones' piano player Ian Stewart. They treated the locals to a set that included such favourites as "Dead Flowers", "Willie and the Hand Jive", "Oh La La", "Key to the Highway", "Little Queenie" and Clapton did a solo spot on "Stormy Monday" . . . meanwhile the reformed **Small Faces** with Steve Marriott, Ian McLagen, Kenny Jones and new bass-player, Rick Wells, replacing Ronnie Lane, have a new album out on Atlantic records, *Playmates* . . . **Ronnie Lane** has also been working on a duet album with Pete Townshend. It's now finished and is titled *Tough Mix* . . . ex-Pentangle bass player, **Danny Thompson** is recovering from a heart attack and therefore currently unable

Recording News

The **Rumour** have resurfaced with a single out on Phonogram. Entitled "Queen of Paradise", it was written and produced by Shade and Gerard Smith, and recorded at Mandrill Studios.

WEA (Australia) have expressed interest in releasing **Alistair Riddell's** "Wonder Ones" and **Rick Steele's** "Trains Can Fly" across the Tasman. Nothing has been drawn up but at least the attention is there.

Harlequin Studios in Mt Eden, which was started last year by Doug Rogers and Mike Dodds, has been very busy with demo work. Split Enz, Lea Maalfrid, Malcolm McCallum, the Scavengers, Cirrus (with Paul Crowther, ex Split Enz, on drums) and many others have put down tracks there. The studio is well-equipped and ideal for groups wanting to record



Split Enz at Harlequin Studios.

demo tapes. Anyone interested in booking time there should ring Mike or Doug at 779-353. Go to it, Eeerhor.

The soundtrack for the film *Sleeping Dogs* has been completed and features **Mark Williams** and **Murray Grindlay**. An album of the soundtrack has been compiled by Alan Galbraith who is quite excited by the project. The tracks from Murray Grindlay are "Murray Grindlay as Murray Grindlay should sound", says Galbraith.

Meanwhile at the end of August, Alan Galbraith and Mark Williams are leaving for Australia for an indefinite period.

Wellington rock group **Schtung** have just completed the backing tracks for their first album. Rick White is producing, and dubbing and mixing is scheduled for the last couple of weeks in August.

The **Heartbreakers** first album is due to be recorded early in September.

Riddell Rides Again

The latest product of new local label, Mandrill, is a single for Alastair Riddell. Shedding the Space Waltz front, Riddell has virtually single-handedly produced a remarkable little piece — "Wonder Ones".

Playing at last count; piano, organ, a couple of guitars, synthesisers, various vocals, and perhaps bass, Riddell has produced a more compact and purposeful arrangement than Space Waltz ever managed. The jerky piano intro and characteristic harmony guitar work are the most prominent thing about the early stages of the song, until a really great chorus sweeps in to carry all before it.

Yes, they were the Wonder Ones
If they wanted more they were very sure
They were Wonder Ones
And they fight for all, for nothing,
They have wonder fun.

Of course it sounds a little too close in lyrical content to "Oh, You Pretty Things" to be completely comfortable, but with a tune like that you could forgive it anything, and as it rides its honky-tonk piano and guitar solo out to the end it takes its place alongside "Gutter Black" as single of the year so far.

Francis Stark

to work . . . all-girl Californian group **The Runaways** have recruited a new bassist to replace Jackie Fox. Seems Jackie quit after two suicide attempts and several disagreements with the rest of the band. New member is Vickie Blue . . . new British sensation is **Elvis Costello**, who has already been compared with Bruce Springsteen, Van

The Manhattan Transfer

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Nudge Nudge . . . Wink Wink . . . Say No More!!!

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Morrison etc, etc. His back up band includes ex-Sutherland Brothers bass player Bruce Thomas and ex-Chilli Willi drummer, Pete Thomas. The man's slogan goes — Elvis is King. Figures . . . **The Rumour's** first solo album without Graham Parker is out and it's called *Max*. Why, you may ask. Well, seeing as Fleetwood Mac called their album *Rumours*, then The Rumour just had to call theirs *Max*. There's logic for you . . . **Randy Newman's** first LP in quite some time is released in the States in September. It's titled, *Little Criminals* . . . Dan Peek one third of **America** has quit the band. This leaves Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell to work as a duo or hire a new man . . . new **Linda Ronstadt** album, *Simple Dreams*, is yet again produced by Peter Asher and features the Rolling Stones, "Tumbling Dice". Sounds interesting . . . **Bill Bruford** ex-Genesis and Yes drummer, is now working on a solo album with a band comprised of Dave Stewart on keyboards, Allan Holdsworth on guitar, Jeff Berlin on bass and vocalist, Annette Peacock . . . Sid Vicious, bass player for the **Sex Pistols** was fined 100 pounds in London on a charge of possessing an offensive weapon, namely a flick knife . . . after a considerable lay-off before his last album *The Idiot*, Iggy Pop has now swung into action again. Iggy has another David Bowie produced album out in September. Titled *Lust for Life* it features nine songs, seven of which are co-written with Bowie . . . meanwhile rumour has it that **Bowie** may hit the road later this year with Iggy in his backing band . . . **The Beach Boys** are now signed to CBS via James William Guercio's Caribou label. But they still have one album to complete for Warner Brothers that's to be called *Adult Child*. The switch to CBS has

been brought on by the less-than-impressive sales of their last two albums, *15 Big Ones* and *The Beach Boys Love You* . . . **Marc Bolan** is to have his own half-hour TV series in Britain called *Marc* . . . **Jeff Lynne** of the Electric Light Orchestra has put out a solo single, "Doing That Crazy Thing" which features Elton John among the backing musicians . . . **Levon Helm** of The Band is working on a solo LP . . . while **Rick Danko's** first solo album is released on Arista . . . **Rod Stewart** is in the process of mixing his new album . . . **Sea Level** (with Chuck Leavell, Jai Johanny Johanson and Lamar Williams — all late of the Allman Brothers) have drafted in new members Randall Bramblett on keyboards and sax and David Causey on guitar . . . and the **Gregg Allman** band drafts in Kenny Burke to replace Willie Weeks on bass . . . **Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow** have had constant problems since they lost keyboards player, Tony Carey and bass player, Jimmy Bain, some months ago. Now, latest bass player, Mark Clarke, has quit and they have not yet found a replacement for Carey on keyboards . . . **Kursaal Flyers** release a live LP later this year recorded at the Marquee in London . . . The **Grateful Dead's** new LP *Terrapin Station* features orchestration on the title track by Paul Buckmaster and using the English Chorale . . . **Johnny Winter**, after working as a sideman on Muddy Waters last LP, *Hard Again*, has now recorded a straight-ahead blues LP with the Muddy Waters band, called *Nothing But the Blues* . . . new band recording on George Harrison's Dark Horse label is **Attitudes**, which includes ace sessioners Danny Kootch and Jim Keltner together with bassist Paul Stollworth and keyboards player David Foster . . .

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