

Rumours

FROM PAGE 14

a **Rolling Stones** reunion but said he'd recently jammed with **Bill Wyman** and **Charlie Watts**. Expect **Keith Richards**'s solo LP soon.

Musicians on the road with **Sting** are complaining. The singer and his band are in the middle of a monster 13-month tour and it's hard going. "Everybody's burned out," said sax-man **Branford Marsalis**. "I have a tremendous amount of loyalty to Sting so I'll stick it out, but anybody else, anybody else, would have quit. It's impossible to give your best when you're doing seven shows in eight days." Remember that when he was with the Police, Sting would keep the tours short to avoid straining his voice. **Prince** made a few surprise in-store appearances while his show was in London; one included his whole band and drew a crowd of 1,000. And if you think **Cat**'s figure is impressive then consider the tour's estimated total cost of two million dollars. **Ike Turner** has been sentenced to a year in jail for possession and transporting rock cocaine. The conviction follows his arrest last year when police found a freebase pipe and six grams of crack in his car. Ike is recording an autobiographical album entitled *My Confessions*.

Hawkwind man **Robert Calvert** died from a heart attack in his Margate home on August 14. Charges against **Lionel Richie**'s wife have been dropped both by the singer and his lover Diane Alexander (22). This was in order to "spare the ordeal of their private lives being exposed in public." It will also save Brenda Richie telling everyone exactly where she kicked hubby, and how hard. Cincinnati's radio WCVG-AM has become the world's first All **Elvis** station; 24 hours of Elvis Presley chat, music and trivia.

CHRISTCHURCH

Whilst the international touring acts have not been faring too well lately, things on the local scene have been picking up. **Crystal Promotions** are putting their faith in the locals and staging a 12-hour concert at the Town Hall, featuring 12 South Island bands. Billed as **Red Rock '88** tickets are now on sale for the October show. Two weeks prior **South Sound Promotions** have a similar concert featuring **Rick Bryant & The Jive Bombers**, **Amez-Amez** and others.

Even closer to home **The Subway** has been struggling lately but attendance at recent gigs has picked up enough to keep the venue open. Bands such as **Jean Paul Satre**, **Three Guesses** and the **Prodigies** have proved to be the biggest crowd-pullers whilst the **Axel Grinders** have been appearing regularly to appreciative crowds, proving there is a connection between disco and punk!

Across the road the **King George** is now under the control of **Standard 10 Promotions** and operating on a similar basis to the Subway, whilst the **Coachman** now features the **National Sex Grid** and their ilk in an effort to entice the punters on early week nights.

Audio Access are still moving along rapidly with **Look Of Anguish**, **Itchy Feet**, **Tony Cornaga**, **Christchurch**, **Pachamama**, **Richard Gibson** and **Pop Mechanix** all spending time there over the last month. With all the developments around town with local studios **Audio Access** are still leading the way and with some planned alterations look like staying in that position. The **Axemen** have signed to **Jayrem** and should have their new album out soon. And there is talk of a new ChCh-based record label.

Other bits: **Smacc Rifleman** aren't splitting but are undergoing changes. **Echo Records** have moved and are now two floors of goodies. After a

successful tour 'round the world the **Bats** are taking a break and will be recording a new album for release early next year. **J.GREENFIELD**

DUNEDIN

Cactus Club are back in town. They are working towards an EP release and will be playing live on September 25 at the third Chingford Park outdoor concert. Also confirmed are ex-pat Dunedinites **Cassandra's Ears**. **Snapper** played for the first time in a couple of months at famous old local haunt The Empire. One quiet night and one loud one (the PA blew up on Friday) supported by the excellent three-piece **Snare**. **The Bats** played at the opening of our very own brand new HMV Megastore, also at the European's Burgundy Bar with **Plagal Grind**. Good times. The *Expressway Pile-Up* compilation, featuring **This Kind Of Punishment**, **The Doublehappys**, **Dead C**, **Snapper** and more is now available on tape. **Doug The Warlock** are heading for the studio to commit some of their more inspired compositions. **Look Blue Go Purple** have finished recording and mixing their third EP. Joy as we hear **Straitjacket Fits** are playing Sammy's supported by the **Jesus And Mary Chain**. And a little bit of sadness as **Craig Watt** departs for Sydney and London with his **Dynamic Duo** — Chris Steers and Quinn McConnell. Craig's been grinding out quality for years, if anyone deserves to be a rock star he does. And a definite rumour this one, a **Verlaines** gig in two months???

WELLINGTON

No.9 are moving to Sydney and will record an EP at **Writhe** and play a farewell gig at the Clarendon before they head off. Their album *Nowhere Fast* released here through Jayrem has been licensed to a German label. **The Laundrettes** reformed for a one-off anniversary gig at the Clarendon and they have a great live digital recording that may result in a single. **Adventure Playground** are to record and film their **Cricketers** gig on the 18th and drummer **Grant Cody** is leaving for the UK in October, with the rest of the band to follow next year. **Not Really Anything** have just finished a marathon recording session at **Writhe**, joining fellow F-Nuners **Jean Paul Satre**. There is a new **Sceptics** album in the pipeline — somewhere. The new **Tex Pistol/Rikki Morris** single 'Nobody Else' is out now and watch out for the Paul Middleditch video on **RTR** September 12. John McDougal has left the **Holidaymakers** but will continue to write and record with them. Congratulations to the band for six weeks at No.1.

Onewata's single 'Dance Little Children' is available again after a box full was located under a bed. Look out for a rock and roll community calendar for 1989 which will be available soon. Also in the essential-buy-department is John Dix's book *Stranded in Paradise* out this month.

Harry Death have released a 45-minute tape called *Live Too* recorded on August 8. The tape is backed with six tracks recorded at **Writhe** with a cast of friends. Plans are being drawn up to move the toilets at the upstairs bar at the Clarendon which will enlarge the audience area. The Lounge Bar at the Southern Cross tavern is to have the booths removed to enlarge that venue also. The bar is now known as **Sherwoods**. The summer garden bar season will begin after Labour weekend and Peter Kaye is now taking bookings. Look out for a big gig at the varsity on Sept 30 with the **Jonahs**, **Magic Roundabout**, **Jean Paul Satre Experience** and **Straitjacket Fits**.

On Thursday nights the **Active Down Under** show now features 'Caught In The Act', local and touring acts recorded live and another new show on **Active** is 'Jailhouse Rock', a one hour request show from local prisons, every Friday from 7 til 8. Following on from the entertaining musical theatre sports style afternoon at

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