

# RUMOURS

## AUCKLAND

**Dead Flowers** returned from Australia on September 28, after spending a fortnight recording their third album at Darling Harbour Studios in Sydney with Oz producer Robbie Rowlands (who recorded **Head Like A Hole's** new album *Double Your Strength, Improve Your Health, And Lengthen Your Life* in Melbourne). A new **Flowers'** single, 'The Wine Song', will be out last week of October ... the **Headless Chickens** have completed recording sessions at Airforce Studios with producer/engineer Nic Roughan, and former **Chickens** vocalist Fiona McDonald has guested on two tracks. Other than that, details are sketchy; "We'll see what happens, but it's shaping up to be an album by the looks of it," said a spokesperson for Flying Nun. Roughan is now recording **David Kilgour's** third solo album at Airforce ... over in London, **Nathan Haines** has finished recording his second album *Soundkilla Sessions Volume 1*, scheduled NZ release is late October. Haines will return home to tour in December ... Queen Street venue **Pod** was closed on September 13 by an irate landlord who was owed a substantial amount of overdue rent. Lesson one in venue management: don't make daily trips to Harrah's Casino with the previous night's takings ... the news ain't all bad though. **Rayna Sound**, the man behind the *Hatching Battle of the Bands*, is reopening the (semi-)old Kurtz Lounge venue on Symonds Street. A competition is underway to find a new name for the club, the winner will receive a \$100-bar tab and a VIP free entry pass valid for one year. Send your entry to PO Box 105255, Auckland, and for booking details contact Rayna on (025)736-736, or DJ on (025)584-382 ... check out the latest issue of Palmerston North's *Valve* magazine to discover the hot gossip on why the **King Loser** "gang" didn't enjoy touring Australia with **Garageland**: "On a 10-hour journey they would read the *Face*, *Q*, *ID*, all those glossy blah magazines," sobs guitarist Chris Heazlewood. Still, it

could have been worse, at least **Garageland** weren't the band reading geriatric porno mags ... **Dam Native** will release a third single before the end of the year, prior to dropping their debut album, *Pure Poetry*, in February 1997 ... the brothers **Loasa**, collectively known as **Grace**, have changed their moniker to **Kaizen**, which is, "very simply, Japanese for making something bad, good", according to band manager Michelle Murphy. The trio will be playing several gigs around the Auckland area this month ... Shayne Carter has resurfaced in Auckland, and will knock out a second **Dimmer** single early November ... Tangata Records have signed pop/reggae outfit **D-Faction**, and will release the band's first single for the label, entitled 'Pride', late October ... **Superette** cancelled their Auckland and Wellington support slots for the **Garbage/Ash** double bill, though rumours of the band's demise are premature, says manager Yvonne Dudman: "They're taking a break from each other as they're finding it hard to work together, but they're still a band at the moment. There's no official announcement that the band has split up."

JOHN RUSSELL

## HAMILTON

The 1996 **Contact 89FM Battle of the Bands** came to an end early last month. The winners of the final were **Grok**, second place went to **Trucker**, and **Department of Correction** came third ... the second annual *Spatula Death Battle of the Bands* was also held in September and featured **Grok**, **Captain Stubing**, **Huckery** and **Groll**, a band made up of **Spatula Death** and **Rumpus Room** members. The winner was, surprisingly enough, **Spatula Death** ... 1995 **Contact 89FM Battle of the Bands** winners **Nihil** are about to release their debut CD, *Nil*. The 10-song CD was recorded at both **Contact 89FM Fridge Studios** and the **Zoo** recording studio ... **Inchworm** are currently recording demos ... the second **Contact 89FM Subcard Series** for this year will get

under way this month. Acts confirmed are **Shihad**, **DLT**, **Headless Chickens**, **Grok**, **Trucker**, **Pugnaut**, **The Obvious Bolgers**, **Johnny Fist** and **Fallen**.

CLARE O'CONNELL

## HAWKES BAY

**Hanging Tree Records** have been busy recording **Anti Ring Finger**, **Big Blue Blanket** and **Inflatable Sex Doll Trio**. **Big Blue Blanket** and **Anti Ring Finger** have six-song EPs of their recordings out this month. **Hanging Tree Records** are also looking at releasing a CD compilation featuring live recordings over the year ... local bands **Hanging Tree**, **Soap**, **Mello Thumb** and **Soft Cock Giraffes** have tracks included on the German **Noiselab** CD compilation *Noiseland* ... to catch local and alternative music turn the dial to 1431AM Mondays and check posters for times ... **Dancing Azians** are releasing an EP, *Pap Into the Old Head*, soon ... local arts/music zine **SAY** celebrates its first birthday this month ... **The Music Machine** are organising a **Battle of the Bands** competition at **Freemans** in the coming months, and the **Coalition** are organising a similar event at **The Club** in November ... yet another release on the way is **Scotty's** from **Kaweka Flyers** who is preparing for the release of 'Sugar Loaf' in the near future.

MAIT EMERY

## PALMERSTON NORTH

**Lizard Mull Records** have taken over **Himitangi Record Cutting** and will soon have a stereo lathe in operation ... out now is the new **Molersheep** seven-inch single, 'Incomplete Loser' which has been pressed on blood-red vinyl ... on October 11 at the **Wild Horse Saloon** is a triple release party featuring **Filthy Business**, **Wholesale Drainage** and **Slugfarm** ... **Foisemaster** are teaming up with **Brick Shit House** to release a split CD on **Lizard Mull Records** ... the **Bastard Children** gigs celebrating 20 years of punk rock attracted good crowds over each of the four nights ... production for the next issue of **Undercurrent** is underway, send contributions to PO Box 4511, Palmerston North ... as of November 28, **Vargas Grell**, **Wholesale Drainage** and **Reign** will be on a North Island tour ... applications for **Orientalton 97** are available from **Marg Smith** at **MUSA**, C/O **Massey University**, Private Bag, Palmerston North ... new all-ages venue in **Palmy** is the **Pacific Cafe**, which is having three bands for three bucks gigs every Friday

**Excommunicated** is the name of a CD being released by the **Celebrate Fighting Monks of the Wholesale Abbey**. The CD features **Wholesale Drainage**, **Slugfarm**, **Master Cheese Maker**, **Vargas Grell**, **Rain**, **Molersheep**, **Jaded**, **Filthy Business**, **Smiley's Stink** band and more ... **Valve 8** is out now, and what a splendid piece of uncensored free speech it is too. The CD features **CUNT**, **Cytoplasm**, **Ekul and Nad**, **Flaming Werepigs**, **Whitehiss**, **Mechanic**, **O Baser**, **Ross Harkness**, **GAM**, **Drugs vs Grandchildren**, **Earl Grey** and the **Biskettes**, **Squirm**, **Winston**, **Crusty Jim**, **Witcyst**, **Praecox**, **Falian**, **Falien**, **Sowpuss**, **Chapel of Gristle**, **Age of Dog**, **Allen** and **Shecamel of God**. **Valve 8** is now distributed by **Kato** ... any info for this column phone (06)3577-641.

JARROD LOVE

## NEW PLYMOUTH

**Big Day In** at **The Mill** is on October 27, and is looking fine with appearances from **Shihad**, **Loves Ugly Children**, **Sticky Filth**, **Hideously Distigured**, **Kitsch** and more to be confirmed ... **Bachman Turner Overdrive** have postponed their one-off New Zealand show at the **TSB Stadium** until May 31 (**Queen's Birthday Weekend**) next year ... **Sticky Filth** contact address is now C/O **Pat File** at PO Box 5514, Wellesley St, Auckland. Phone (09)358-3884. Meanwhile, **Sticky Filth** have just completed mixing an EP due for release before the year's end ... **Mushroom Ball** dates are May 16-17 1997, contact numbers are (025)971-265, phone and fax (06)753-6186 ... the **Furlong Motor Inn** in **Hawera** is holding a band competition from November until February, with heats each Thursday ... **New Plymouth** has six venues at the moment interested in having bands, which is good to see ... there appears to be a new breed of melodic pop bands emerging, with bands like **Benzino**, **Cynasue** and **Harlequin** all staying away from the hard and fast thing ... **Most FM** (**Polytechnic Radio**) is expected to be on air in November ... **Aaband** rehearsal studio called **King Street Studios** is up and running. It is centrally located, the phone number is (06)758-4985.

BRIAN WAFER

## WELLINGTON

Firstly a plug for the wondrous four-piece **Sugarbug**: these eerie, melody makers I saw before the **Chills** are made

up from members of **Lushburger**, **Truckstop**, **Clay**, **Plankton**, **Paspalum**, **Sowpuss** and other seriously cool bands that I just can't remember right now! ... so, the **Sex Pistols** are playing in Auckland on October 5; well, **Wellington** sees **Snort** play at **Hole in the Wall** with **Sowpuss**. **Snort's** leading lady, **Reta Lequesne**, is now residing in **Wellington** and has enticed the **grrrrs** to come and play. **Reta's** jamming with **Jawload/Sowpuss** frontman **Andrew Tolley**, which means a kinda swampy/dirty rock band is surfacing soon — ooww! ... speaking of which, are **Ape Management** really moving here, to **Rock City Wellington**? ... **Nick Bollinger** has produced and is releasing **Bill Lake's** album entitled *Hole Truths* ... the **Original Music Workshop** are putting together a series of gigs including **Amanda Marmite**, **the Avacado Babies**, **For Patrol** and **Weta**. The gigs will be recorded and compiled to be released as a CD compilation ... **Head Like A Hole** are doing the rounds again, touring the country with their new album entitled *Double Your Strength, Improve your Health, and Lengthen your Life*. They also sport a new manager, **Jayne McCall** of **Hole in the Wall** fame ... catch **Jawload** while you can, drum-man **Paul Lester** is leaving for Australia. Who knows what could happen now? ... **Cattle** are releasing another seven-inch featuring the tracks 'Stitches and Beer' and 'Cold', are heading out on a mini-tour, and return to play **Bar Bodega** with **HDU** October 17 ... we've seen them live a few times, now **Pussywillow** are recording ... **Sowpuss** song '2 Can Keep a Secret' is featured on the **Valve 8** CD compilation available now ... limited edition **Dome** eight-inches are now available ... **Weta** have scored the support for the **Everclear** gig at the **James Cabaret** on October 13 ... so, it's said the **Bilge Festival** are no more — well, I don't believe it.

ANGELA MEANS

## CHRISTCHURCH

**Swallow** and **Gluefist** recently completed a **Christchurch City High School** Tour. The response went off, with girls screaming at **Avonside** girls, and a bit of signature-signing going down at **Rangiora High School**. Speaking of **Swallow**, their debut video 'Blood' is screening on **Cry** and an EP is currently in the recording process ... **Cinematic** will spend October cruising around the North Island playing gigs, making a video for 'Why Are You So Tired?', and

demoing at **The Church** in **Wellington** ... **Carla Rotter** (ex-**Snort**) is managing new young metallers **Jawhead**, who are gathering quite a following ... **Squirm** have come to an amicable decision, drummer **Daryl Kirk** is leaving the band. **Pete Mitchell** (**Dial Tones**) is filling in for up and coming gigs ... **Warners** has opened its doors again to touring acts as well as high profile local acts. A decent venue is something **Christchurch** is seriously lacking ... recommended live act of the month is **Locust**. A fine drum 'n' bass pop thing happening here, lots of potential ... spring is here, wahoo!

SARAH NICOL

## DUNEDIN

**The Chills** played a couple of times before hooning off for the **Sunburnt** world tour. If they play the set they played at the **Empire** on September 12, enchanting the fans and wooing more, they'll hopefully sell more copies of the album ... the **Temple of Everything** at 96 High Street are hosting much more frequent events, including performances by **Misty Ra**, **Pumice** and many more ... CDs are expected real soon from **Mink** (the *For my Mink* album which is believed to be CD-ROM compatible featuring interactive video and other footage mostly shot by **Al Starat**), and **Yellow Eye** are also doing heaps with releases planned for **Cynthia Should**, another **Funhouse** CD to follow **Roy**, as well as **T&D Bigger Band**, **Tardis**, **Synergy** and more ... **Radio One's Update** CD compilation will be coming soon to a student radio station near you ... **Crude** have attracted some interest in Japan, and the triple eight-inch set is out now through **Crawlspace Records** ... **All Electric** are releasing a follow up seven-inch to the runaway success of 'Romance of the Iron Road'. It'll be coming out on American record label **Carbureta** ... the **Aesthetics** have rocked off for a tour including playing at the 20 years of **Punk Rock** celebrations in **Palmerston North** ... the proposed tour by **D Baser**, **Soma**, **Slate** and **Johnathan Talbot** is looking at being put back a month or so, possibly to November or December ... the **D Baser** single is selling well in town as is the new **Eve** seven-inch ... **Fold's** CD *Plant Life* has gained possibly the biggest sales by a **Dunedin** release in **Dunedin** — wow ... **Sandra Bell** has left for Germany to live and will be missed ... any news, gossip or potential defamations, call me on (03)477-4534

DARRYL BASER

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