

NZ Singles

OMC Land of Plenty CD Single (Huh!)

On 'Land of Plenty', accompanied by a soft shuffle groove, Pauly Fuemana talks his way round the landmarks and scenic spots of New Zealand, both man made ('Monuments, Mission Bay, Cuba Street, Vulcan Lane') and natural ('Open caves that glow supreme, black sand shores, Lion Rock'), and is joined at regular intervals by vocalist Taisha, for catchy choruses that celebrate it all. There's no bravado, it's just honest. On the other hand, the B-side here, a so called 'Acoustic Mix' of 'How Bizarre', is a con. Instead of recording a truly acoustic rendition of the track, with just guitar and vocal, all that's happened is the rhythm tracks have been dropped from the original, making this version sound, not 'acoustic', but like a work in progress.



JORDAN REYNE Millstones CD Single (Festival)

With the release of the single 'Millstones', Jordan Reyne's debut album, *Sister Falling*, shifts status to 'forthcoming', after so long spent being 'alleged', "Is this Shona Laing?" was the innocent inquiry when 'Millstones' came through the speaker in the *R/U* office, and there certainly is that vibe to it. However, Reyne's voice is more full and throaty than Laing's, and in the production area, 'Millstones' has been given a sparse, organic feel, not at all slick and over polished. Track two, 'Birds of Prey', is an odd one. It has an almost identical 'ah, ah, ah, ah' vocal backing to Laurie Anderson's 'Oh Superman', and a constant two-note organ line combined with the apocalyptic tone of Reyne's vocal, makes for a mesmerising, spooky experience.

PASH Doowop CD EP (Sony)

When I first met Steve Simpson, lead singer with Auckland (via Christchurch) trio Pash, they'd already taken one short cut to fame, having been adopted by Radio bFM — but it was obvious Pash weren't gonna stop there. "I think it's about time your magazine did an article on my band," said Steve boldly. 'Here's a man who knows what he wants,' I thought to myself. These days, the celebrity status that has eluded Pash for such a short time must seem within reach, now that they've signed with Sony Music (once home to the Holy Toledo's), and released the five-song EP, *Doowop*. And their debut reveals that Pash have got pop hooks aplenty to go with the stars in their eyes — they're just obviously borrowed hooks that's all. 'Undercover Antics After Dark' swaggers by with all the predictability Teenage Fanclub could ever muster; if you de-clawed Swervedriver's 'Rave Down', you'd get Pash's 'Uneasy Street'; and 'Gravity' rolls all the fuzzy riffs and vocal yelps any half decent UK guitar band made in the early 90s into one comfortable soundbite. Nevertheless, *Doowop* could do the business. It takes that safe, colour-by-numbers approach to music that appeals to *real/Oasis* fans, who like to hear music but don't like to listen.

JOHN RUSSELL

Making Music

Rumours

AUCKLAND

Towards the end of March, Auckland's shyest record label, **Opus Locus**, unveil the compilation CD *Slaves of Nevermind* — their fourth such release (since 1989) — featuring legendary, semi-famous, obscure, or barely existing local bands. *Slaves...* features tracks by **Drill**, **Chris Knox**, **Tinnitus**, the **Earthlings**, **White Saucer**, **Demonic Roskrow**, **Ratsy Piggir**, and a whole heap more. A release gig is being held at the Kings Arms in Newton, on Easter Monday (March 31), acts appearing are, Knox, **O**, the **Letter 5**, **Musky**, the **Earthlings**, the **Gore Gore Girls**, and **Smoothie**, the fun begins at 2.30PM. To contact Opus Locus, write to PO Box 6894, Wellesley Street, Auckland, or e-mail at johnp@revolver.co.nz ... still holding the City Council at bay, **@Luna** in Symonds Street are looking for bands to play their *Kiwi Music Night* (Thursdays), phone (09)373-4431 for more details. No such luck with Les Mills and gang for the **Frisbee Leisure Lounge** (also in Symonds St); John Baker and crew were evicted mid-February, and the building is soon to be demolished ... and in other venue news, the **Sub Station** opened recently at 27 Victoria Street in the central city. It has an audience capacity of 150, a stage, plus a small PA and lighting system. If you're keen to play, phone Bobby on (09)356-7362 ... rock 'n' rollers the **Pet Rocks** have a new manager, Pat Fife. To book the band for gigs, weddings, wakes, call (09)379 8853 ... more hardcore happenings, on March 15, **Balance**, **Sommerset**, **Ghidrah**, **Boy Wonder**, and **Sky City Filth**, play at the Grey Lynn Community Centre. It's all ages and the first band is on at nine ... Aaron Carson (ex-Dead Flowers) is now playing bass in **Thorazine Shuffle** after the departure of Murray Hood. "He had to leave," reports Shuffle's surrogate mom, Stuart Broughton, "we caught him listening to No Doubt." ... **Mushroom Ball** number 10 is happening in New Plymouth on May 16/17. Ticket, transport, and corsage packages are available for Auckland punters wanting to attend — contact Crawlspace Records at 203 K' Road, phone (09)302 2046, or **MC Greg** of Number of the Beat Records & Tapes fame, at 666

Dominion Road, Mt Eden, phone (09)630 9066 ... finally, **Future Stupid's** high school tour is going ahead mid-March. No details as yet, but it will be happening as soon as a few troubles are ironed out; "They won't let us in many girls schools," says the band's singer Tony Hallum.

JOHN RUSSELL

HAMILTON

Wendy House's cassette-only release, *The Love Quadrangle*, is out this month ... the **Hollow Grinders** have been included on a compilation of surf music from around the world to be released by a fledgling Texan label ... **Inchworm** begin recording this month at Greg Locke's studio, for an album which will be released on the band's own label, **Dedear Records**, (hopefully) in June ... also on **Dedear**, **Grok** have been using the **Fridge Studios** recording time they received as the winners of last year's **Contact 89FM Battle of the Bands** ... **Fuse** have also been recording at the **Fridge** for a CD they will release "as soon as possible". Made up from members of **5 Girls** and **Blinder**, **Fuse** are presently negotiating with a possible sponsor for the CD.

JUSTIN HARRIS

NEW PLYMOUTH

Coming up are visits by **Salmonella Dub** (March 29) and **Tina Turner** (April 14). Recent visitors have included **ENZSO**, **Head Like A Hole**, **Hell Is Other People**, **Wretched Skinny**, and **Gamut** ... **Bassline** will reopen soon, watch this space for details ... **Avalanche Audio** has its new studio up and running. All enquiries to Kerry Smith on (025) 529 356 ... **Horror Business** have a cassette available in local stores, search it out ... **Inebriation**, **Hoarmoning**, and **Wrath** did a quick jaunt to Wellington to convert the masses, and **Harlequin** are continuing their out of Taranaki excursions with lots of return shows happening ... **Benzine** and **Peter Jefferies** recorded together at **Avalanche Audio** and the tapes have gone to Canada with Mr Jefferies ... need to play New Plymouth? Give me a call on (025) 971 265.

BRIAN WAFER

PALMERSTON NORTH

Gigs in Palmy are becoming more regular with three different venues operating at present ... the **Stomach** studio is now home to a brand new mixing desk

Hardware

New Products from **Direct Imports** are: **Epiphone by Gibson: Les Paul Double Cutaway**, fitted with USA P-90 pickups, fast neck. RRP \$899.

Guild D4 Solid Top Acoustic: Made in the USA, Rosewood fingerboard. RRP \$1299.

Fender Tex-Mex Strat: 22 Frets, medium-jumbo, solid body vintage hardware, Tex-Mex Trio pickups. RRP \$999.

Fender Hot Rod Deluxe Amp: New model, 40 watts all tube, 3 channel clean, overdrive, cover included. RRP \$1395.

Emagic Audiowerk 8: Full size expandable PCI Digital Audio card for use in either a Mac or a Windows 95 based computer. Features 2 analog ins, 6 analog plus S/P-DIF digital I/O, ships with the highly user friendly VMR software and is fully compatible with both **Emagic Logic Audio** and **Emagic Logic Audio Discovery**. (Electric Factory).

Alesis QSR: Packs the features of the **QS-8 Synthesiser** into a single rack space unit. Features 640 programs, 500 mixes, 16 megs of sample ROM, 64 note polyphony, ADAT optical link, two expansion card slots, Mac or PC compatible interface, full 16 Part multi-timbral operation, ships with a CD ROM that includes sequencing and editing programs, MIDI files and new banks of sounds. (Electric Factory).

Alesis Nanosynth: 1/3 rack size, 64 voice, 16 part, 8 megs of sample ROM, over 500 sounds, 128 programmable sounds, GM, multi-timbral synth' module offering all the sounds found on the **QS6 synth'**. RRP less than \$1000. (Electric Factory).

Spirit By Soundcraft F1 Mixing Consoles: New F1 14/2 and F1 16/2 mixing consoles with six or eight mic inputs respectively, Ultra-Mic Pre-amp, high pass filters, swept mid EQ, stereo inputs, stereo FX returns, 100mm faders, rack mount options. Available early April. (Electric Factory).

SOMETHING IN THE WATER.

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WORLD FAMOUS IN NEW ZEALAND

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