RUMOURS

Contrary to Tast month's rumour, the latest news from 95bFM is "no major format changes", says station manager Adam Hyde .. Shall launch their new single 'Dinah' / 'New Little Sister', at Squid Bar on August 15 ... this city's finest music store Beautiful Music (66 Ponsonby Road), takes over the K'Road club, Herzog, every Wednesday night, Shop owner and DJ Gary Steele promises "global grooves, sublime slowjams, and essential electronica from 9pm till late ... RIP the Woody Loves Ugly Children begin an Australian tour in Adelaide on August 29 .. AK97, a compilation featuring local electronic acts (Unit 23, etc), will be launched at The Compound in Grey Lynn on August 16 ... Canis Have

recently released their debut alnum. Solid Flash Crime is available in the shops or write to 20a Bright Street. Eden Terrace, Auckland for details. Can's played instore at Space Your Face on July 25 to launch the album ... bFM DJ Mikey Havoc will host a nightly, live show, Haveo, on MTV from mid September . the Marital label unveil their showcase compilation album next month featuring tracks from Splitter, Coelacanth, 5 Go Mad, and Saturn 5. in addition, Coelacanth have almost completed their debut album, Three Feet Deep .. the Relay dance party, RGB has been postponed until September ... Balance, Somerset, and Nickel, are playing in the carpark ajacent to Real Groovy Records at 7.30pm on August 29, and the following day

Balance and Nickel play at Number of the Beat Records (666 Dominion Road, Balmoral) at 1.00pm ... finally, Future Stupid play two shows at Squid this month (August 22 & 23), the latter JOHN RUSSELL night is all ages.

HAMILTON

The 1997 Contact 89FM Battle of the Bands has begun at the Bongo, with Tobermorie winning the first heat. The final takes place on August 23, and will feature each of the four heat winners, plus the next highest placed band The Notorious/Tupac Tribute was a huge success with the Bongo filled to capacity. The promoters are planning a similar event in the near future Ghidrah are last becoming a wellknown name with impressive performances, and support slots for both Fugazi and the Melvins ... Contact 89FM is undergoing a few changes with the addition of a full-time breaklast host and a full-time drive host ... local elecfranic outfit Southern Tribe, who scored a NZ On Air video grant last month for 'Closer', will make the clip with Auckland film maker Greg Page

Mystery Machine have released a tape " which is available from the entitled the third annual Contact office . Spainia Death Battle Of The Bands is planned for early September .. ska punkers Bwa Da Riddim are threatening to release a vinyl album very soon. JUSTIN HARRIS

PALMERSTON NORTH

The Cue Group are hosting the Rock Rumble band battle at Vultures Niteclub at the Princess Tavern from September 4 till October 23 Prizes on offer include recording time and video production. The closing date for entries is August 30. Phone (06) 354 5027, or contact PO Box 4517, Palm Nth, for more details.

FLASH KEITH

WELLINGTON

OK, Wellington. Things haven't slowed down, as one tends to think in winter weather such as this. And the two prominent places of rock still do so through the mid-winter months. Bar Bodega and Hole in The Wall are both celebrating birthdays at the end of August, HITW is turning two, and Bodega are here six years ... bands gigging in town this month include Slate (Dun), Syke, Keeping Tadpoles (Wanganui), Razor Blades, and Fur Patrol. These bands are all contributing to the 'Thursday night free gig thang' at the Hole ... gigs happening at Bodega include Flying Nun's Bike on August 7 and 8, the Magick Heads on Aug 21, and Chris Knox and Alec Bathgate on Aug 29 ... another Wellington compilation, this one featuring Baconfoot,

Wildside Records Ninel Regan is compiling, and the perhaps-titles include You're Sosking In It .. the Letterbox Lambs have a new and impressive drummer. Oscar Wutt, who also plays in Whinge ... read all about it! Youth Focus is a new fortnightly section in the Evening Post. A Wgtn band will be profiled in each edition, to inflict local rock on the younger ones amongst us Inca Productions is the name of Mike Gibson's new recording space located in the old Writhe studio space, Renovations are under way and record ings have begun...the University Band Competition happens on September 2 3, and 4. If you have a full-time student in your band and do not have a major (ish) release already, get in touch with Marg at the Student Union to enter Entry is limited to 20 bands, so do it 3 C Eva has practice space, the home of creations from Pussywillow, Police Luciter, Dome, and Saw Call (04) 384 1991 if you make the grade. would love to go on, but hell, there's next menth. ANGELA MEANS

Other People is due to be released on

NELSON

The Zine Fest produced two new Trace Hodgson comics and another issue of Mudfix, a 40 page local music zine edited by Mark Tyler. Highlights of the festival included sets by Fugazi, Killirain, Smackies, Motorsheep, Bloody Hell, Sola Monday, Slate, Pumice, Chapel Of Gristle, Eluben, Daemon, and Cranium, although attendances varied with the temperature ... Clowndog have released a Geraldine vinyl single. plus a cassette ... the Lippids cassette/album. Ruins The Girl, will be out soon ... Noctum Productions have moved into the old watchlower brilliing, and along with the Arts Centre, is offering 8-track recording for \$10 per hour ... the next Arts Centre multimedia Techno Hell is happening on September 13 as part of the Wearable Arts Festival ... any news for this column, phone Dave (03) 5466918.

DAVE WHITE

DUNEDIN

Rumours? There are very few ... Paul Winders has left the Verlaines to pursue fatherhood. The V's will be looking for a replacement, casually .. Radio One's Onelest kicked off on August 6 by the Melvins, supported by Sugarbug and the Headless Chickens Other acts who played as part of the event were Beats And Pieces, Chris Knox, and Tripod Jimmy ... Chug are away to the USA, but aren't taking drummer Glen Williams due to an accidental coffee spillage. Gary Sullivan is going instead. Deadman's going over to mix 'em, and will release his album when he gets back wanker skinheads caused trouble at a recent NORML gig, but that's what wanker skinheads do, innit? Whereas stoners sit on the floor ... The Ho Dogs have had a 'dream run' on the Top 11 with the folk ballad 'Fuck Your Wife' They played in Invercargill, with all sorts of bare-buttocked madness: and all they need now is a Malcolm McLaren-esque manager to get them on their way (and rip them off) .. Slate, Pumice, and Sola Monday are off on their national tour as we correspond Good luck to 'em.

GAVIN BERTRAM













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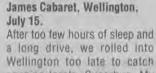
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SUPERETTE, SUGARBUG

PAVEMENT

a long drive, we rolled into Wellington too late to catch opening locals, Sugarbug, My apologies - I owe you guys a rain check. Superette sounded and looked

happier in a smaller venue, than in the cavernous Powerstation the night before. They set about proving themselves yet again, jamming through some tougher versions of Tiger's hit tracks. Even members of Pavement could be seen tapping their feet.

behind the band, stage left. Of course, the main reason a sell-out crowd had come was to see Pavement - absent from these shores for nearly three years to the day. And if the previous night's show was anything to go by, none would

leave disappointed. Looking more relaxed in the mirror ball, black walled interior of the James Cab, Pavement warmed the hearts of those present with faithful versions of most of the excellent Brighten The Corners. They highlighted the lazy late 60s feel of 'Transport is Arranged', 'Blue Hawaiian', 'Starlings of the Slipstream', etc. And played twisted pop ditties, old and new, including 'Box Elder', 'Cut Yr Hair', 'Stereo', 'Embassy Row', and Spiral Stairs' wee hummer, 'Date W/IKEA' (a chain of

Scandinavian DIY furniture stores). In all, the set counted into the mid 20s, and those lucky Wellingtonian folk got a couple extras tunes in the form of 'Summer Babe', and an extended freak-out version of the Velvet's 'What Goes On'. As is their 'golden touch', Pavement do nothing but further enhance their reputation for entrancing musical delicacies with each visit, come again... sooner.

MAC HODGE

INCHWORM, CHICANE Kings Arms Tavern, Auckland, July 18.

With a roaring fire and a small but supportive crowd in attendance, there's a cosy atmosphere at the Kings Arms tonight for the second to last show of Inchworm's You Are

Only Here album tour. Chicane, an Auckland four-piece with their roots in Christchurch, took the supporting role, and were far from the timid janglemeisters I'd been told to expect. Chicane's x-factor dwells in their crisp, beat-perfect rhythm section, that provides guitarists Dean Chiplin and Justin Schilder with a solid framework to build layers on. Chiplin has a strong, expressive voice, and with Schilder, their dual gat attack has the pop feel of Sebadoh mixed with the edgy, speedy aggression of the Wedding Present. Chicane don't play about the place often, and don't go out of their way to draw attention to themselves, however, they are definitely worth keeping an ear on.

You Are Only Here is Inchworm's second independently funded/produced album, and tonight Hamilton's leading lights, mixed up tracks from that record, with tunes from their 1996 debut. Shinv. It soon becomes clear that Inchworm have made efforts to toughen up their swirling pop sound; quitarist Justin Harris's rollercoaster melodies are further upfront, and the pounding beats of drummer Rob Talsma give the trio a 'rockist' boost that wasn't evident when I last saw them. 'Happy Birthday', from Shiny, packs an extra wallop, and a fair slice of the new tracks demand more from Harris as a vocalist. This evening, he shifts moods from that of exuberance, to angst ridden, to impassioned, but always remains compelling. It's easy to get caught up in Inchworm's energy, and it's also a pleasure to do so, for their a band who deserve respect not only for their music, but their commitment to DIY independence.

JOHN RUSSELL

CONSTANT PAIN MANCINI 500

Substation, Auckland, July 24. "There won't be a dress code, but someone may want to inspect the size of your pupils", warned a friend as I set off for the Substation.

Tonight, the Mancini 500 lineup (subject to change) was Daniel Mancini, and Sean O'Reilly (ex King Loser) on drums. On a cymbal-free, threepiece kit, O'Reilly knocked out random, staccato bursts of structureless snare and tom heats - no pattern and no flourishes, okay. This provided the bed for Mancini's nonsongs, made up of fuzzed-out. guitar distortion, and incoherent lyrics, either spoken, wailed, or screamed. If Mancini 500 had been playing at Artspace, this kind of stuff would be described as 'performance art' or 'free noise', here in the dingy climes. of the Substation, it's 'rock 'n' roll, maaan' (or so I was told). Either way, I've heard countless variations on this 'style' of musical spontaneity, and without exception, it means infinitely more to the creators than the receivers.

Constant Pain, on the other hand, play to their crowd, as well as for themselves. Certainly, they share some elements with the openers periods of rolling feedback sees them lose the plot occasionally - but CP have actual songs, that heave and swing (thanks to hard-hitting Lance Strickland on drums) in all the right places. Guitarist Cameron Bain will repeat a mesmerising riff for what seems like minutes, then hurl in an almighty squall of feedback that violently blows the spell, while Strickland engages in a furious bout of drum abuse. The fact that Constant Pain veer from loosely arranged songs to noisy, introverted tangents, means my interest comes and goes, but overall — and to their credit — Constant Pain have gone beyond masturbatory indulgences that are best left in the practice room. Hallelujah!

JOHN RUSSELL

Flamejob, Hustler, Hemi, and Hell Is



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