

pretty noisy, but a lot more polished. Like LOS, they have the perfect blend of hooks and toughness (not many local acts would be sampling Megadeth, but Rough Opinion did it well) along with a great visual presence. Rough Opinion are a bit more locally orientated — from their look to their raps, RO do the brown and proud thing and do it well. Watch out for them.

Last up were the local equivalent to the Commitments with better noises and their own songs! Supergroove. By now you've read dozens of reviews and probably seen them live as they've just toured, so there's not much I can add except that this time they rocked out a bit more, which was cool, although they still seem to mistake slap bass for funk, but that certainly doesn't stop crowds loving them and everyone having a good time. If you missed them this tour, definitely catch them next time.

KIRK GEE

**PSYCHO DAIZIES
SMAK, NOTHING AT ALL
Pioneer Women's Hall, April
25.**

Why don't I know any people who aren't completely retarded? Cos I never got a proper job and just spent all my time doing all this rock music stuff. What am I doing in the Pioneer Women's Hall where the urinal trough in the men's toilets is overflowing due to someone having apparently defecated in it, totally flooding the entire ground floor? Just hangin' out with all the retarded people I know, I guess.

So, I miss the 1st band, Psychic Love Stereo, probably an unprecedented stroke of luck on their part — and the 1st band I do see is called Nothing At All. They're okay — barely competent gtr and drums just sort of slime-surf along on top of the bass (also barely competent but mega loud and sludgy), a pleasingly rude sound. They drag some in the mid part of their set, but bounce back with their two best songs at the end, the one that goes "you don't understand me" and the, uh, the other one. I'll probably see 'em again.

SMAK are one of about two Auckland bands that could stand up and say "We're a ROCK band" or "We play ROCK music" and I wouldn't laugh. I mean I would laugh, but I'd be laughing with them not at them, is I

guess what I'm tryna say. They play loud, faster than is my usual preference, drink home brew, say rude words... Only things I can fault 'em on really are (1) the bass player still gets to sing his songs and (2) they should learn some new covers — the sped-up versions of 'Whole Lotta Love' and 'Faggy Nation' were funny the 1st couple of times I heard 'em but now sound kind of diuretic.

The Psycho Daizies main angle used to be crass metallic hammerings of '60s garage-punk "classics" that annoyed me as much as most contemporary bands' tampering with such material, but these days they have more of a 70s-punk / HM matrix ("progressed" I guess) and a whole bunch of "original" (ie anything but) material shaped to fit. Fact that they are the only band on the scene with the good taste (I guess you'd call it) to cover a Dictators song oughta be some indication of where they're at right now... Anyway it added up to the 1st time I've seen 'em that I really dug 'em, and I never much thought I would. Considering too that SMAK had already run thru most of the same bag of tricks, yep, pretty slick.

DUANE ZARAKOV

CDs

Following the success of *The Commitments* movie, Warner Music are releasing a 44-track double CD best of 60s soul singer **Wilson Pickett**. There are three previously unreleased tracks (including live versions of 'Midnight Hour' and 'Funky Broadway') and 33 of the tracks were Top 100 hits and 18 of the tracks were Top 10 R&B hits. Many of the songs have not appeared before on CD. Wilson Pickett, who proved elusive in *The Commitments*, plays Sydney May 27.

Warner Music are also issuing for the first time on CD, the **Sam & Dave Soul Men** album and two of the best three **Otis Redding** studio albums released after his death, *Love Man* and *Tell the Truth*.

Rhino will release in August a 4-CD *Stiff Box* containing 96 songs from the infamous UK indie label 1976-87. The Box set was issued in the UK by Demon Records.

Rhino are issuing for the first time **Alice Cooper Live at the Whisky**, recorded in 1967 with Cooper's original band — Glen Buxton, Michael Bruce, Dennis Dunaway and Neal Smith. The set consists of seven

live version of tracks that appeared on his debut album *Pretties For You*.

Fantasy (via Festival) have issued previously unissued albums by Stax Southern soul artists — **Otis Redding** *It's Not Just Sentimental* (14 unreleased tracks plus 7 alternate versions), **William Bell** *A Little Something Extra*, **Rufus Thomas** *Can't Get Away From This Dog*, **Carla Thomas** *Hidden Gems* and various artists recordings *Stax Revue Live at the Ballroom 1965* and *1000 Volts of Stax* (rare & unreleased). These same "Stax Sessions" titles are also available on UK's Ace label.

BMG issue a five CD **Elvis Presley**

boxed set in July, *The King of Rock 'N' Roll: The Complete '50s Masters*. Every track Elvis recorded for both Sun and RCA are included with 15 previously unreleased tracks.

Rykodisc have issued a 105 track **Yoko Ono** boxed set entitled *Ono Box*.

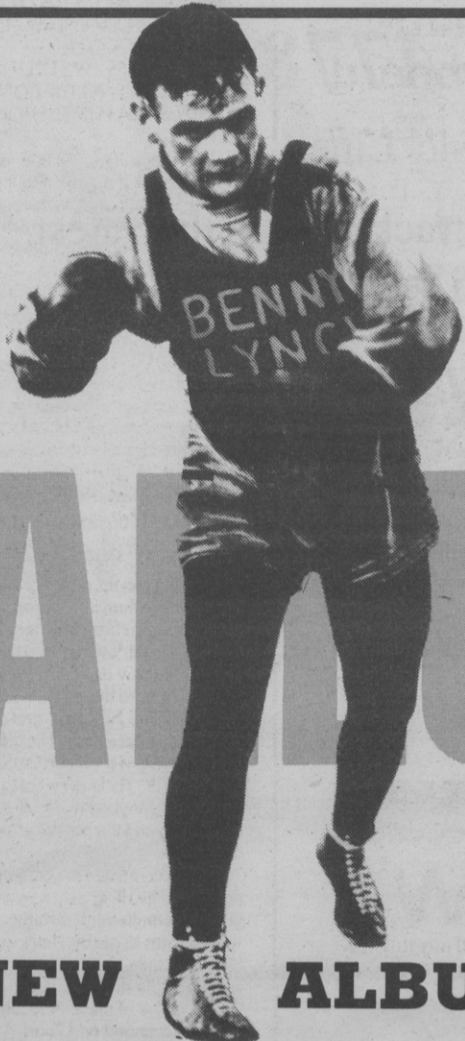
Columbia will release a two CD **Aretha Franklin** set *Jazz to Soul*. The first CD is more jazz, while the second CD has an R&B feel. There are several unreleased tracks.

Columbia will also issue compilations by **Muddy Waters** (Blue Sky label), **Son House**, **Johnny Winter** and **Taj Mahal**.

FUTURE RECORDINGS

CHILLS, Soft Bomb.
HEAD LIKE A HOLE, 13.
SONIC YOUTH, Dirty.
HALLELUJAH PICASSOS, Hateman in Love.
LOS LOBOS, Kiko.
DANZIG III, How the Gods Kill.
BEASTIE BOYS, Check Your Head.
CABARET VOLTAIRE, Technology.

SISTERS OF MERCY, Some Girls Wander By Mistake.
LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM, Out of the Cradle.
BLACK CROWES, Southern Harmony & Musical Companion.
TOM TOM CLUB, Dark Sneak Love Action.
NAPALM DEATH, Utopia Banished.
SOUP DRAGONS, Hotwired.



GALLUS

THE NEW ALBUM FROM

GUN

GALLUS: A GLASWEGIAN TERM MEANING 'COOL' OR 'THE BEST'

This followup is worth the wait. Guitar-driven rock songs with strong hooks and a gritty vocal delivery are still the order of the day, but GALLUS benefits from a beefier production and the injection of just the right amount of extra instrumental muscle — a more confident and adventurous approach than its predecessor. 4 stars. Q MAGAZINE

Happening, heavyweight and highclass, inspired and quite superb. KERRANG


Gun emulate Leppard's ability to marry tight traditional rock signatures to melody with their impressive new album GALLUS. GALLUS is an improbably strong album and one that should signal Gun's promotion to the first division. Pick Of The Week. MUSIC WEEK

GALLUS is a great album, one of the best so far this year! KKKKK KERRANG

GRADE A! RIFFRAFF

Instantly likeable... riotously uplifting — Mark Rankin sings every word like he means it, the tunes are gutsy and dynamic and anyone who loves the kick of natural, joyous music will be intoxicated. It's not a case of hoping and wanting Gun to succeed. After GALLUS they simply have to RAW

GALLUS Captures Gun as they mature into a passionate and insistently effective band capable of writing songs of genuine substance. The result is the most accomplished British rock album since Def Leppard's 'Hysteria'. RAW



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