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ISSUE 05 19th March 1998

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CUSTARD

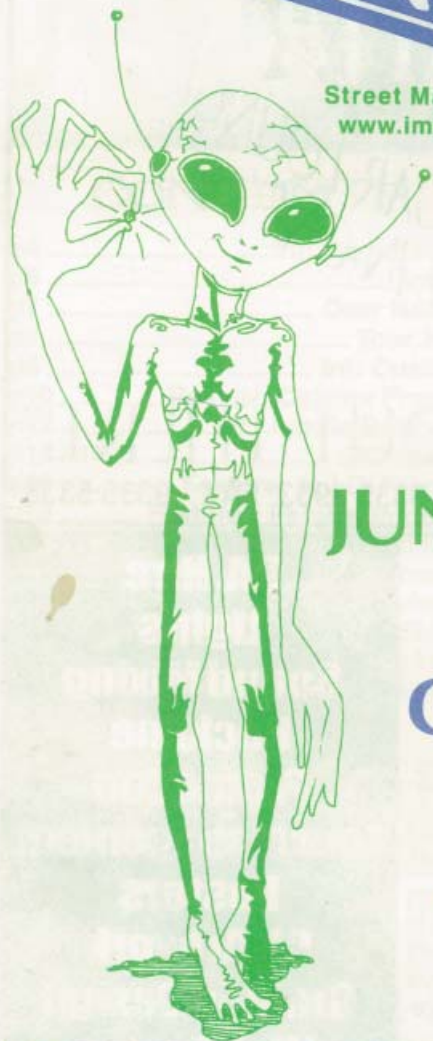
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SABIAN SAYS: Dollars, moola and dosh... we all know that \$ makes the world go round, the sun rise and the birds sing, so if you want to find out how to save three dollars and then find yourself with nothing worth buying, turn to page 18... Yes, the promised feature on parallel imports has arrived and I strongly recommend you persevere through some of it's drier moments and find out what the government is trying to do to the industry that we love so much. Adieu, adieu, to you and you and youhoo.

Sabian

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SQUIDFINGER



I'm talking to Michael from Squidfinger...

[Michael waves]

Actually, we don't use non-verbal communication on tape...

"Oh... hello.... Test... Test"

Squidfinger have a rather ambitious second release coming out, a double CD Squid extravaganza called 'Jam 100% Fat'. "The last CD launch was so big that we had to do something bigger to eclipse it. We got all our tracks down, there were some really weird tracks and some radio-friendly tracks, so we came up with the idea of putting them out on two CDs so that you could choose your mood."

The two CDs come in corresponding hot and cold primary colours, funky fat red and chillin' blue.

Squidfinger have been playing locally for about three and a half years, during this time they have tri-handedly carried the seventies glam rock torch for the entire Perth scene.

"We've also done a lot for Australian masculinity apparently. After the 'Hot Summer's Day' gig we did recently somebody came up to Chris the bass player and said that 'Chris had renewed his faith in Australian masculinity'. I have no idea what that means... but I'm sure it's a good thing"

Many people know this about Squidfinger but before his assumption of the throne, he played in a little band called 'Thirst', replete with

open paisley shirts, long hair and bare feet. So how does a quiet, introspective hippie become a tightly panted glam rock star?

" Taoism. It's all about self-improvement and cultivation. I just wanted to know what it felt like to wear tight pants all the time and I thought 'Why not?'. I indulged, bought the drugs, bought the fashion and spent a whole lot of bucks and it's an interesting experience. I guarantee anybody that wants to take the plunge will have a great time."

So having been both a hippie and glam icon, will the next six or so years see Michael moving into the eighties, perhaps a New Romantic phase, with frilly shirts and swanky jackets?

" I doubt it. A lot of people are trying hard for this eighties comeback - I don't think its gonna happen. I don't see the impetus for the eighties comeback because it's so anal and Midge Ure, Ultravox... I dug it when it was there and that's enough for me [laughs]"

It's unlikely that there will be single releases, but I asked Michael which crowd-pleasing favourites have been mercilessly flogged to death for commercial profit.

"They're all there. 'Funky 48' was on the last CD so we couldn't slam that again. I was trying to get the fellas to do a techno version of 'Juicy Lucy', remix the old stuff and slam it on the

new CD, but it didn't happen (we ran out of money). But there is 'Get Out' and 'Fruit Loop' and a whole host of favourites. 'Conquistador' finally made it, it was supposed to be on the first CD, but we couldn't get it recorded in any coherent fashion. These names may mean nothing to people who have seen us but once, perhaps twice, but to the hardcore Squidfinger fans it may mean a great deal. It doesn't matter, it's coming out anyway!"

In another classic Squidlike commercial suicide move, Squidfinger have decided to stage the CD launch as a musical... would Michael like to expand on this?

"[Giggling] I wish I could expand as well as the instigators of the movement, however, I will do my poor second best. As it turns out, we're going to get Spank to support us, and they've expressed interest in continuing and taking hold of the whole 'musical' idea. They will be playing two sets, 'Stoneage Man' and 'The Roman Empire' at the beginning of the night, later on in the night we will be moving on to modern times, moving through the story of Squidfinger through the ages, going from the rehearsal rooms to the gigs to the world tour and then to the inevitable plane crash, landing on the island of Disco. At this point I think it would be prudent not to reveal too much..."

The production is being staged at Victoria Hall in Fremantle, incorporating a cast of thousands (OK... about 15), a quadraphonic soundsystem, pyrotechnics, extensive lighting production and of course, the music of Spank and Squidfinger. Tickets are an absolute steal at \$8.00.

Interview by Sabian Wilde

INTERVIEW

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INBOX

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Dear Gig,

Love your mag. May you grow big enough to hit X-Press in the face with a metal gauntlet. They've long forgotten the people who actually create what they and others only parasitise. On the other hand, how about a weekly section on people who have bizzare jobs? You know, telephone sanitisers, aardvark trainers etc.

The Rat
Canning Vale

[Rat... actually, I thought that people who tried to make a living playing music were pretty bizarre. -ED]

Gig,

Perth is the new 'C'attle. Kurt was correct, there will be a Frances Farmer led revolution. Penny Royal Tea - penny royalty - The nouveau riche suck basically. Um, I dig the Gig... it's cool and funky and way more '98 than X-Press.

Forgot my name.

Dear Gig,

Congrats on getting four issues out . . . I can't remember the last time I saw a new mag in Perth go that kinda distance. But really folks, you need to do something about your quality control. I am keeping every edition cos it looks like they will be collectors items.

I mean, how long can you go on fucking up the front cover? Don't you people know how to spell? Or even what year you're living in?

Kris
Northbridge

[Ummm . . . would you believe that we actually planned it that way? See you at the 2001 Olympics -ED]

Indemnity:

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DEAR NODGE:



Be it big or small, Nodge will cure all. It doesn't matter whether you've stubbed your toe or are making that final, desperate call for help. Contact Nodge via The Gig or email her yourself on nodge@vrl.com.au

Dear Nodge,

I am the editor of a funky and hip new street magazine. We are an equal opportunity employer so I decided to give a friend of mine a job... She's writing an advice column with no experience whatsoever and seems to think she's pretty bloody amusing...There is a slight problem in that no one is writing to her...What can I do?

Sabian

Dear Confused,

There is only one thing to do...SACK THE BITCH!!!

No... Not really...Perhaps she is so damn amusing that people just like reading her stuff and are toooooo gutless to write in with their problems to face the harsh cold reality of the truth.... But there is also the fact that she has had no previous 'Agony Aunt' experience and could well drive people past the brink of sanity with her inane advice.... If you want an unqualified moron with no experience advising people why don't you have an astrology column?

-Nodge

TOURS

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Metropolis City - Monday 30th March

Thurs 2nd – Sun 5th April

Metropolis City – Thursday 9th April

Entertainment Centre, Sat 11th & Sun 12th April

Metropolis Freo – Monday 13th April.

Mandurah Foreshore - Monday 13th April.

Metropolis City – Tuesday 14th April

Wed 15th – Fri 17th April.

Metropolis City – Tuesday 21st April

Thursday 30th April – Sunday 3rd May

Metropolis City – Sunday 10th May.

CUSTARD



Those masters of the tragic ballad that reduces you to tears of laughter are back in Perth this week. I was lucky enough to grab a few words with Chief Custard, Dave McCormack and chat about golf and O Week...

Sab: With your most recent album, 'We Have the Technology', you're obviously in a better position to use technology than in your earlier days, has that changed the way you look at song-writing?

Dave: I think we've got more basic. In the earlier days I was a big fan of drum machines, I was going through a Pop Will Eat Itself, sort of cut and paste vibe. I don't think we used any samples on the last album, and certainly no drum machines.

Sab: So it's more a case of having the technology and choosing not to use it.

Dave: Exactly. Laughing in the face of it. Well, we had the technology, but the technology we were dealing with was 1973 to 1975... it was all pretty old. We have the technology of a certain era. Archaic.

Sab: People always seem to be eager to say that Custard are a lot smarter than they seem... a bunch of smart guys hiding behind dumb songs...

Dave: People keep saying we're dumb. We ARE smart... and we're not hiding.

Sab: So it's an intelligent pastiche of cleverly written pop songs that everyone's missed the point of?

Dave: You've completely nailed it.

Sab: Why Thankyou.

Dave: Sabian, you've got it. Except you've missed... I always think of our songs as so sad, but everyone thinks of us as a happy band. So much of it is about such sad things... I write these songs, everyone sings along to the words but they don't seem to understand. I think I've just got to make it more obvious.

Sab: Just throw in a few minor chords...

Dave: I thought we did. Maybe we're just not as smart as we think we are.

Sab: Have you found out what 'Wiseneimer' means yet [the name of their third album]?

Dave: I think it means 'smart-arse'. The first time we got that name was when we were looking at [producer] Eric Drew Feldman's spellchecker in his Apple Power Book. And I went back to it, and you know Oppenheimer? It's like saying you're a real wisacre, you're a real smart-arse, a real...

Sab: Nuclear physicist?

Dave: Yeah, you want to be a nuclear physicist but you're not as smart as you think you are.

Sab: On the subject of album names... 'Wahooti Fandango'... go for it...explain.

Dave: Wahooti is just a slang term for marijuana... Fandango... we had a poster once that said "Custard meet Fandango", and I thought, well 'Fandango' sounds good. Matthew [guitar] will like it. If there's a drug reference there you've got Matthew on side.

So I think it just means 'Marijuana Party', I guess... So our first record means 'Marijuana Party', our second record means 'Smart-Arse'

Sab: You have a new drummer, Glenn Thompson, who's writing songs as well as staying on the Custard drum stool for a while.

Dave: Yeah, but he gets up every now and again, has a blaze out the front...

Sab: Are you going to keep this one? [Custard have had five drummers to date]

Dave: If Glen leaves then it's all over, you can bet your house on that, no more getting rid of drummers. We only got rid of the rest of the drummers because they weren't nice guys. I'm happy to do more drumming anyway.

Sab: You recently went on a self-financed tour of Canada... how did it go?

Dave: Good! We lost heaps of money.

Sab: And that's the measure of success, is it?

Dave: Yeah, that's good, obviously we were doing something unusual. If we'd made lots of money, I would have been worried... it would have meant we were sticking to the tried and tested path. Obviously it was really good because we lost heaps of money and played for practically no money, but everyone liked us. I think it's a good investment in the long term.

Sab: Americans being keen aficionados of sarcasm, how did Custard go down?

Dave: They're pretty stupid, Americans. They're not super smart. They may rule the planet, they've got a certain confidence, they don't have to care about anyone else. The rest of the world is their backyard... but they liked us, they thought we were a good enough little band. They were surprised that we were there, like, "Why are you here, what sort of music?" They like to categorise things and they were having trouble doing that. We were a constant source of entertainment and bemusement for them. I look forward to going back and confounding them further... forever.

Sab: Your first single, 'Nice Bird'... what were you trying to do there?

Dave: It all came from a computer game... Microsoft Links? The golf one... there's a commentary that goes with it.

Sab: Oh... 'Nice birdie'?

Dave: Exactly, you got it... except that it would always drop the 'E' off the end and say

'Nice Bird'. And we were fascinated by that.

Sab: So it's not a blatant attempt to outrage some feminists?

Dave: [Maximum Sincere] Oh no! No, not at all... it should have been, I can see how it would of, but no...

Sab: So the lyric, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush", that's another golfing analogy...

Dave: Is it?

Sab: It's better to have a birdie on your score card than your balls in a bush...

Dave: Exactly... it's one of those things. I just regurgitated the first thing that came into my head. And then we got it out as a single, which I think is hilarious...

Sab: What are you planning on doing next, recordingwise?

Dave: We've got a stack of new songs which we've just written that are pretty interesting and we'll be playing those in Perth, but we haven't recorded them yet. We've been playing them for the last couple of weeks... we just finished an East Coast 'O Week' university tour with Rebecca's Empire (God they're a nice bunch of people)... basically playing to a bunch of disinterested young people who are trying to fuck each other... which is fine, I think that's good. At least no one pretended to be interested in the music - I think we might record them sometime in the middle of this year.

Sab: So is there any reason you like coming to Perth, or is it just that people want to see you?

Dave: People want us to come there. If no one comes to the gigs, we'll stop coming, I promise. (SW)



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Cinema Prague

CD launch 'Nordensost'

Eskimo Joe and Mach Pelican

@ Newport 15/3/1998

A wise and cynical man from Melbourne once said, "Everybody's getting a three piece together". The line up at Cinema Prague's CD launch provides three good reasons why people should. First up was Mach Pelican and I have to say that I enjoyed their normal set much more than their Ramones Tribute set. These three boys play an incredibly fast paced set and their drummer can only be described as a perpetual motion machine, but their songs are surprisingly tuneful. Unfortunately, the only safe place to listen to them was the nearby beer-garden, because they were amazingly LOUD.

Eskimo Joe took the stage next and played with their trademark enthusiasm, breaking strings and hearts in equal measures. These guys are turning into strong performers, making a mockery of the concept of a set list and yet still entertaining the audience during the long song breaks. As always, there were words of wisdom imparted to the faithful, in this particular instance from Kavyen; "When you're performing under lights, NEVER wear a woolen shirt." This reporter can only assume that his nipples were chafing.

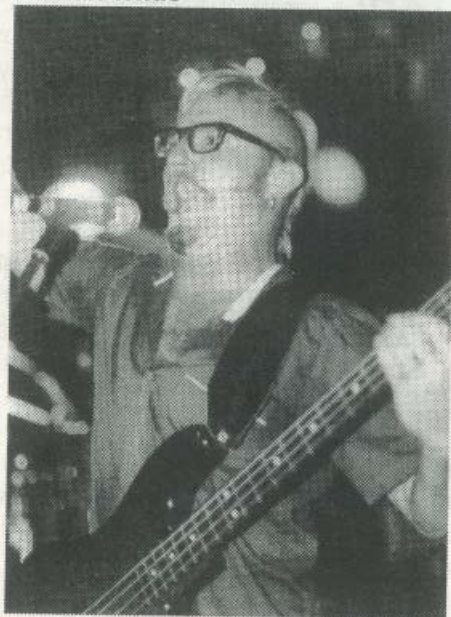
But the heroes of the night were (of course) Cinema Prague, home to roost and hatch the shiny egg called 'Nordensost'. Mohawked and swivel-hipped, bass player Rex remains eminently and compulsively watchable, whilst ever-serene Georgie K plays guitar and the role of straight(er) man. Tim Lowe somehow managed to both play drums and

*** LIVE *** LIVE *** LIVE ***

occasionally sing despite a complete absence of air in the room's upper reaches, where he perched like a 'dove from above'.

Cinema Prague are one of those rare bands that really deliver a show, combining presence, charisma, humour and outrageous talent in a dyslexic medium that can only be described as 'Beautiful Music - Dangerous Rhythm'. In addition to the now staple diet of 'Jump for You' and 'Dumped Again', newer songs kept people jumping up and down (there was rarely room on the floor to do anything else). If you have never seen this band before, I recommend you do so before they leave Perth again.

- Sabian Wilde



Rex baby hepcat swing-thing - pic by Michael Wylie



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LESSONS FROM

JUNGLE BROTHERS
interview by:
Alistair Moffat.

It's been ten years since the Jungle Brothers and their Native Tongues movement swept hip-hop off its feet. Last year the group reformed and put out the 'Raw Deluxe' album, quite possibly one of the best hip-hop releases of 1997.

Head rapper and producer Afrika Baby Bam spoke from his home in Brooklyn, New York, on the Jungle Brothers return to the rap scene and the changes that have occurred in hip-hop music through the Nineties.

"We got off Warner Records and we got some interest from the original label we used to be on, Gee Street, to do another album," explains Afrika. "We figured it would be good to get together and make another collective effort to do another album. And also for the love of hip-hop, because there is still some left in us."

"We had met with certain dangers of the music business, and in the end we just had to take a step back and re-group. Also we all have families now. So this was the first record that I've done where I've had a full family, a wife and three children, and that had

become a priority in my life."

The album 'Raw Deluxe' saw the Jungle Brothers collaborating with a number of different producers, especially when it came to the albums remixes. The Jungle Brothers most recent self-titled single 'Jungle Brother' contains six wicked mixes, including the almost seven minute Urban Takeover mix and the funk heavy, bold and brassy Stereo M.C's mix.

Other producers that worked on the album include Djinji Brown and DJ Roc Rider, as well as the Jungle Brothers themselves, who produced eight of the albums twelve tracks.

"The infamous Native Tongue family worked with us on the 'How Ya Want It We Got It' remix," says Afrika. "We worked with The Roots on the first single 'Brain'. The Stereo M.C's laid a track for us, for 'Jungle Brother' they did a mix and we also worked with them on our music video. We get on really well; we're like from the same family, both being on Gee Street Records. I did production work for them on their second album 'Supernatural'. We had a great working relationship together and the record company had them submit a remix, and it turned out pretty good."

Ten years down the track and the Jungle Brothers have almost

THE OLD SKOOL



become the outsiders of the hip-hop movement. There are certainly few parallels that can be drawn between them and late Nineties rap stars like Puff Daddy, Busta Rhymes and the late 2Pac Shakur.

"I've heard a lot of bad gangsta rap records, but I've heard some good ones too. Both sound bad, both generate a negative influence. These days it seems that gangsta rap has evolved into thug rap, which is basically the same thing with a different appeal. It's more of an individual lifestyle,

than a group culture."

"But I think we've joined the pioneers," says Afrika. "We're almost like the founders of hip-hop at this point. We've a more exalted status."

The Jungle Brothers latest album 'Raw Deluxe' is currently available on V2 records. Also the Jungle Brothers are featured on the soundtrack to the new movie 'Senseless' (a brilliant collection of hip-hop and electronica beats), also available on V2 Records.

I
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Free Entry All Night

DOORS OPEN 9PM

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..... DJ Pope
BOG (THE) Blarney Stone
BREAKWATER Djs Simon,
..... Francis
BRIGHTON The Sun Kings
CONTINENTAL Mach Pelican
DCs DJ Steve Mason
DUNSBOROUGH Ball and Chain
GREENWICH .. Vibe Djs Chase, Ben
GROSVENOR Ask Them
HIP E DJ Mic Morcom
INGLEWOOD HTL Karaoke
JERAMIAHS The Cell
JUNCTION HTL Jawbone,
..... DJ Phil
KARDINYA Love Bugs
KALUMUNDA The Clients
LIARS NRG
LEFT BANK Blue Thing
MOJO'S BAR Jeff Lang,
..... The Kilted Generation
NEWPORT Kaos
ORIENT Dj Paul Malone
P&O HOTEL Ouch Karaoke

POST OFFICE DJ Les Cook
RAFFLES HTL Alamo
SEAVIEW DM3, Crimpolene
SHERATON Sue Dalzell
SOHO Senor Lopez
SWINGING PIG Bobby Hanna
WEMBLEY Hot Gossip
THE WINDSOR James Sleight

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

ABERDEEN Blush, Dj Birdie
BABYLON HTL Cathouse,
..... Djs Pope, Gully
BOG (THE) Murphys Lore
BREAKWATER TVN U2ME
CARINE GLADES .. The Exciters
CLANCYS The Fling
COBBLER'S TAV Worx
COTTESLOE Hot Gossip
CLINK (THE) Subukranians
CONTINENTAL Bunghole
CURTINTAV Gunshy Romeos
DCs Djs Steve Mason,
..... Cliff Barclay, Dirty Den
GLOUCESTER PK. Jeff Warner
GNC Malibu Faces of Summer
GREENWICH ... Austen Tayshus,

..... Subukranians
GROSVENOR Air Ensemble
HIP E Djs Les Cook, Brett
INDI BAR La La Land
INGLEWOOD HTL New Romantics
JUNCTION HTL The Crank,
..... DJ Phil
KALUMUNDA Joob, Mr Tickle
..... Homocidal Jungle Cats
KINGSLEY TAV Tooza Crowd
KRUSH Jungle is Addictive
LEDGE POINT Bill Paine
LIARS Love Machine
LOOKOUT(THE) Wax
METRO'S PERTH Radio 80s,
... Daniel Rata Trio, DJ Tony Allen
MT HENRYS TJ Dennis
... And Wam Bam Thankyou Mam
MOJO'S BAR Delicatessen, Bunghole
NAVIGATORS Djs Dom, Tony
..... Stonefish Surf Party
NEWPORT Kaper
NORTHSIDE De Ja Blues
NOVAKS Hot Jam
O'CONNOR'S Darren Ried
..... Soul City Groove
OLD BAILEY Fatt Fiction
PADDINGTON Vdelli
PARKERVILLE Big Al &
..... The Vibrolators
PENNINSULA Squeal
P&O HOTEL Indigo Lounge

Goakleys
ON HIGH ST.

THURSDAY

3PH, EARSHOT,
HOMICIDAL JUNGLE CATS

FRIDAY

KIBOSH

SATURDAY

CATALYST, TAXI, CATHEDRAL



NAVIGATORS

THE CLUB

Saturday

"Absolute Dance"

HEAT II

Plus DJ Dom

"Rhubarb Rhubarb" Promotion
Heaps of Give-Aways
DOORS OPEN 9PM



Sundays

"Sweat" with DJ Tony
Free Entry All Night

DOORS OPEN 9PM

POST OFFICE DJ Wally
RAFFLES HTL Faces
RAILWAY (D.BROOK) Brave Hart
ROSEMOUNT ... Proof, The Jube,
..... Sugarchild
SEAVIEW TVN Smother,
..... Spruce Moose, Idle 55
SEVEN MILE INN Get Back
SHERATON Sue Dalzell

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

TWO ROCKS TAV Whitzend
WEMBLEY DJ Mic
WESTFIELD TAV Deep South
BABYLON HTL Kaos
..... DJs Pope, Dean Charles
BLUE NOTE TVN Rythem Aces
BOG (THE) Fatt Fiction, Seamus
BREAKWATER CJ and the T
..... Horns, Djs Simon, Francis
CARINE GLADES Sax on the House
CLANCYS Ragabillies 4-7
..... Sophies Choice 9-12
CONTINENTAL Zydecats 4-7
CRAIGIE Jake and Elroy
DCs DJ Steve Mason, Cody,
..... Gstyles, Space Ace
GNC Djs Richie G, Birde (Bar Plumba)

..... Djs Nick Alexander, Karl Blue (Main)
GOSNELLS Hot Gossip
GREENWICH Afrika Dance Carnivale
GROSVENOR (HIGH 5 RTR) Team
Jedi, The Tigers, Tonka Tuff,
Greenwood Shampoo Appreciation
Society, Black Belt Champs,
FRONT BAR - Early Hours
GUILDFORD Exciters
HIP E DJs Les Cook, Brett
INDI BAR La La Land
INGLEWOOD HTL Acoustic Gentlemen
KRUSH DJs Darren Briaais, Gully
LAWLEYS Alfredo
LIARS New Romantics
LOOKOUT (THE) J Babies
METROPOLIS CITY DJ Spiner, Rush
MGM In House
MT HENRYS Black Jack
MOJO'S BAR Vibenight Djs
NAVIGATORS Absolute Dance
NEWPORT Jawbone
O'CONNOR'S Peace, Love
..... And all that Stuff
ORIENT Blue Shaddy
PARKERVILLE Frantik
PENNINSULA Kinda Country
P&O HOTEL Acoustic Bridge
POST OFFICE DJ Wally
RAFFLES HTL Frisco 5-8, U2me
REDHEADS Radio 80s

SCALLYWAGS JMD
WEMBLEY Dj Bec
78s INSTORE Love Camp 7

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

BABYLON .. J Babies Unplugged
..... Djs Pope, Gully
BREAKWATER Fatt Fiction,
..... Djs Simon, Francis
CLANCYS Reel to Reel (2-5)
..... Zydecats (6-9)
CY O'CONNORS Ross Avins
CONTINENTAL Spank
GROSVENOR A.S.C.
GUILDFORD .. Gumnut Stompers
HIP E Dj Roger Smart
INDI BAR The Bridge
INGLEWOOD HTL .. Peace, Love
..... And all that Stuff
JUNCTION HTL The Crank
KALAMUNDA ... Trad Creole Jazz
KINGSLEY Domenic Burzolo
LAWLEYS Penny Cullen Jazz
LOOKOUT (THE) Radio 80s
MGM In House
MOJO'S BAR Oustard, Eskimo, Joe
NAVIGATORS Sweat Dj Tony
NEWPORT ... Prawns With Horns,
..... Foe, 3PH, Homocidal Jungle
Cats, Nectar, Earshot, Bumfluff
ORIENT Desert Child

SQUIDFINGER & CD LAUNCH WITH SPANK! as act Zero



VICTORIA HALL
MARCH 21ST

A FRESH BLAST
SMOKE FREE
CD LAUNCH

TICKETS AT MILLS, 78'S & JADA'S

THE MUSICAL

the GIG's Guide

PADDINGTON Hot Gossip
 P&O HOTEL .. We're Here You Aren't
 ROSEMOUNT Celtic City Sons
 SEAVIEW .. Earth Music Sunday
 WEMBLEY Dj Bec

MONDAY, MARCH 23

BABYLON Brett Hardwick Trio
 CLANCYS Frumpy
 ROSEMOUNT Bulimic
 Greasy Spoon, Rustin Cage
 MOJO'S BAR Austen Tayshus

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

BABYLON Brett Hardwick Trio
 BREAKWATER ... Molly McGuires
 Djs Francis, Simon
 CLANCYS Reel to Reel2-5
 The Fling8.30- 12.30
 GREENWICH Spur
 HIP E Dj Mic Morcom
 MGM Dj Mike
 MOJO'S Trev, Al and Friends
 P&O HOTEL Backpackers Quizz
 WEMBLEY . Guinness Pool Comp

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

BREAKWATERTVN J Babies
 CLANCYS Kerri Anne Cox
 GREENWICH . Spank, Team Jedi,
 Indi 370
 HIP E Dj Brett
 LAWLEYS The Love Bugs
 LIARS Karaoke Kats
 METROPOLIS(CITY) Arkana, Primary
 MGM In House
 MOJO'S . Red Jezebel, Lazersuit
 P&OHTL Paul EwingMusic Quiz
 POST OFFICE Dj Crazy Craig
 WEMBLEY Dj Jason, Longy

LIVE
LIVE
LIVE

ANI DI FRANCO & DAR WILLIAMS

Fly By Night -14th March

It was good to see the Fly By Night Club bustling with activity once again, thanks to a 400+ turnout for Ani DiFranco's debut performance in Perth.

Having to quell an addiction to the EI supremo animated series South Park (Saturdays 8.30pm SBS), I found myself missing the evenings opening act Jeff Lang. Although judging by the amount of CDs he sold at the end of the night, he proved to be mighty popular with the punters.

Dar Williams, the second act on the bill, turned the ambience levels up several notches with her repertoire of gentle ballads. Hailing from the U.S.A., Dar Williams fused her songs together with a hint of country/folk influences, and a slight Celtic lilt to her voice. She even invited Jeff Lang back on-stage to perform a song called 'February', giving the young Australian guitarist a chance to dazzle the crowd with his beautifully restrained slide guitar technique.

By the time Ani DiFranco hit the stage the crowd was fully amped, screeching and whooping as the tiny Miss DiFranco wandered on-stage. Within minutes DiFranco had transformed a stuffy concert environment into what felt like a one-woman-band reeking havoc on your best mates lounge room.

Over the course of about an hour, Ani DiFranco joked with the crowd, chatted intimately about just about everything and generally conversed with the attentive audience through songs and poetry. Tracks from her brilliant new album 'Little Plastic Castle' featured prominently in the set, songs like 'Gravel' -with its staccato guitar technique- and the albums title track proving to be instant crowd pleasers, along with DiFranco's brutally honest and often funny spoken word pieces.

An exceptional nights entertainment from one of the most talented singer/songwriters ever to walk onto a stage in Perth, or anywhere for that matter.

-Alistair Moffat-

EVOLUTION

Evolution is a new band competition, run as a part of Joy '98, an initiative of the Office of Youth Affairs (yes, that's right, the Government) and sponsored by Channel 9, Triple M and The West Australian. The semi-finals will be held this week at the Perth Esplanade, Thursday to Saturday, culminating in the Finals on Sunday. The winners will receive a week's worth of studio time at Revolver Sound Studio and the runners up will get to go shopping at Kosmic Sound and Lighting to the tune of \$750 and \$500 for 2nd and third place.

Evolution gives young bands a chance to play in front of large crowds, with a lot of media present, an opportunity many bands have to work very hard for. All of the musicians are aged between 12 and 25 and the competition has been open to all genres of music, so make sure you get down sometime this weekend and see these bands now.

Stage 1 Thurs. 19th	Stage 2 Thurs. 19th	Stage 1 Friday 20th	Stage 2 Friday 20th	Stage 1 Saturday 21st	Stage 2 Saturday 21st
<u>1.00 - 1.20</u> Jethro <i>rock</i>	<u>1.20 - 1.40</u> Blister Mint <i>grunge</i>	<u>1.00 - 1.20</u> Chief Berko <i>grunge</i>	<u>1.20 - 1.40</u> Petrolfish <i>rock/pop</i>	<u>1.00 - 1.20</u> Proof <i>soft rock</i>	<u>1.20 - 1.40</u> Blues to Burn <i>blues</i>
<u>1.40 - 2.00</u> Jessica McCoy <i>folk/rock</i>	<u>2.00 - 2.20</u> Yabu <i>rock</i>	<u>1.40 - 2.00</u> Jeneveve <i>soft grunge</i>	<u>2.00 - 2.20</u> Full Power Trip <i>young covers</i>	<u>1.40 - 2.00</u> Defusion <i>acid jazz</i>	<u>2.00 - 2.20</u> Indifference <i>rock metal</i>
<u>2.20 - 2.40</u> Everglade <i>soft rock</i>	<u>2.40 - 3.00</u> Kissing Tree <i>bluesy rock</i>	<u>2.20 - 2.40</u> Iron Youth <i>grunge</i>	<u>2.40 - 3.00</u> Scream of the Pheonix <i>soft rock</i>	<u>2.20 - 2.40</u> Sorry <i>pop/rock</i>	<u>2.40 - 3.00</u> Kim Phuc <i>grunge/metal</i>
<u>3.00 - 3.20</u> Lunacycle <i>rock</i>	<u>3.20 - 3.40</u> Hello Satellite <i>rock</i>	<u>3.00 - 3.20</u> Thirteen <i>thrash</i>	<u>3.20 - 3.40</u> Insaniac <i>metal/jazz</i>	<u>3.00 - 3.20</u> Zizani <i>soft grunge</i>	<u>3.20 - 3.40</u> Bulimic <i>grunge/rock</i>
<u>3.40 - 4.00</u> Selfless <i>metal/rock</i>		<u>3.40 - 4.00</u> Not in Use <i>funk/pop</i>		<u>3.40 - 4.00</u> Prank Wagon <i>thrash</i>	

CHEAPER CD'S

IT'S A TRICK QUESTION.

Some of you will know nothing about the parallel imports debate, but that will change... the government is about to spend \$750,000 to convince you of their position. Some of us would have first become aware of the parallel imports argument when Jebediah's Kevin Mitchell said at Mudslinger, "Go and sign a petition against parallel importation. I don't actually know what it's all about, but it sounds bad". This is in fact one of the biggest problems concerning the debate... so few people understand what the proposed legislation is going to mean to the music industry, but the results are going to effect us all, even us consumers, y'know... the people who buy the CDs.

From the consumer perspective, the promise of cheaper CDs seems to be an obviously good thing, but just how exactly does the government intend to achieve this, and how much cheaper are we talking about anyway?

What the government is proposing to do is allow direct importation of legitimate CDs from anywhere. This will cut out a significant (and

supposedly costly), part of the process of getting the music from the CD to the consumer, you. Hence, cheaper CDs for everyone. Sounds good, does it? Let's dig a little deeper.

PROTECTION

When a band or artist records a CD and is signed to a record label, there are all sorts of legal rights that are tied up in the recording. In addition to the better known publishing rights and copyright, there are also manufacture and distribution rights (and countless others). It is these last two rights that the new legislation, if passed, will change. At the moment Australia has restrictions on the importation of CDs, which effectively mean that when a foreign artist wishes to release a CD here it has to be manufactured and distributed here.

YOUR MONEY

The government claims that this disadvantages the public, who has to pay more for CDs than our American counterparts. But the American music industry has exactly the same kind of protection that the government wants to abolish here. In fact, all of the big producers of musical 'product' have parallel import restrictions. Australia currently has the 4th largest music industry in the world, after the US, the UK and Canada. We used to be 3rd, but a new initiative by the Canadian government, which has recognised the contribution of the music industry to the economy, has seen government money invested in music. Now the industry is growing from strength to strength. The Australian Government provided the

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At what Cost?

Contemporary Music Export Fund with \$550, 000, largely in the form of loans. Compare this to the \$750 000 that will be spent on their parallel imports 'information campaign', designed to reassure the public that they are right. If successful, this new legislation could devastate the Australian music industry, in particular, our exports.

LESS MONEY

It goes without saying that if Australians can buy CDs that aren't manufactured in Australia, our manufacturing industry will be severely hurt. The Australian branches of the major labels are dependent on the income generated by the manufacture of foreign artists' music. If this source of income is removed by allowing foreign artists to be imported directly into the country, the record companies will have less money, money which they (sometimes) spend on recording and promoting our own musicians. Investing in our own talent will become harder to do.

NO MONEY

But it doesn't stop there. Our copyright laws ensure that the composers and songwriters of recordings manufactured in Australia receive a 'mechanical royalty'. This helps prevent people making money from the sale of recordings without any benefits being seen by the artist who made them. The rate of this 'mechanical royalty' is much higher here than in other countries. Some countries don't even have these kinds of copyright protection.

What this means is that in the unlikely event that an Australian band should be signed by a major label, there would be no compelling reason for that label to

manufacture the CD in this country. It would be cheaper for the company to manufacture offshore, which could mean that the artists concerned may receive only half their normal royalties, or in some cases, nothing at all.

NO MUSIC

Norway is one of the few countries that has ever tried to remove these import restrictions, and they were quick to revert to them after their music industry practically crumbled in front of them. Our government is prepared to spend a lot of money to convince us that the new legislation can only mean good news for the music buying public... cheaper CDs. John Howard has said that the removal of the restrictions could mean a reduction in the price of CDs by up to \$3.00. All I can say is that the survival of this industry is worth a lot more to me than that. (SW)

THANKYOU

Many thanks to Sarah Longhurst (manager of Custard and Pollyanna), Heath Bradby (Naked Ape) and Matt Fagan (Senator Dee Margetts' office, Greens WA) for providing me with the information so I could pass it on.

TEA TUBES



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STUDIO ON THE WORLDS LEADING
HARD DISK RECORDING SYSTEM
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Lighting in Profile - Clive Shilling



of the stage. When I was about 18, a mate of mine used to DJ for Purvisonic Sound and I used to set up disco lights for him. Where I was working sold all the bits I needed to build my own rig, so it grew from there.

Lighting is sometimes considered non-essential by some venues, but really it can make all the difference to a performance...

For sure. I think it's more prevalent now, a lot of people's impression of music has come from watching MTV, they're more video clip oriented than just solely live music. You've got to make a show look like it would on TV, keep it visually interesting

Do some bands lend themselves more to a lighting show than others?

I think any band can use a good lighting show. It's a matter of tailoring the lighting to the band rather than just slapping any old light show on. I like to sit down with a band and see what they feel about the songs, are they bright or moody, that way the band will be happy with the light show.

Apart from working with live music, what other work have you had as a lighting technician?

Theatrical lighting, corporate lighting, fashion shows, even garden lighting for functions. Each require a different approach. It's really an artistic thing as well. When I started with my home-made rig... It's really crucial where you put each light when you've only got six. I think where my lighting technique is different to other people's is that a lot of lighting techs start off in a lighting company, with a big rig of thirty odd lights. They get shown how it all works, shown how to set it up and they end up setting it up in the same way the techs before them set it up and so on. When I started I had six lights, so every time I got a new light it was like, "What's can I do with that light to get the best effect out of it?" So by the time I'd built up to thirty lights, each has got it's purpose and well thought out for maximum effect.

Clive is off to Europe for at least a year to seek his fortune (light techs never seem to get the fame). (SW)

How did you get into Lighting Engineering?

A friend's band started up when I was working as a sales rep. I started doing lighting for them. I made my own rig, my own cans and my own lighting desk, put it all together and started from there. That was in '91.

How many people have you worked with now?

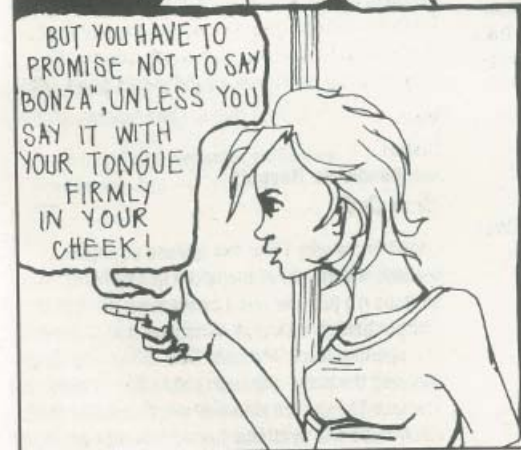
I was freelancing for about three years. I went to Europe in the middle of that time, when I quit my sales job and went into lighting full-time after that. I did another two years freelance with local bands and the Fly by Night. After that, I started full time with Simon at Fremantle P.A. doing lighting and P.A.

Did you fall into a lighting career by accident?

I always liked it. My folks used to take me to the theatre when I was a kid and I spent all my time looking at the spotlight operators instead

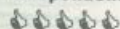
SKANK.E

FUNK·CHICK· by GEMBLER



BANDS

The Waifs Shelter me Independent



Anyone who has even hummed along to an Indigo Girls tune should buy this homegrown CD. Two sisters singing together, each with a distinct style, yet pulling together for great harmonies, soaring above some great acoustic guitar playing. This trio is as unassuming as this release, making their way around the country, continually building momentum and gaining respect wherever they go. They will be in town soon and personally I can't wait to hear some of the tracks on this CD live. If you have already heard of The Waifs, this CD features a hidden track, a live jazz take of 'Billy Jones' (SW)

SOUNDTRACK

Jackie Brown Warner



A soundtrack to a Quentin Tarantino movie can be a very profitable affair, just ask the man himself, he's just set up 'A Band Apart Records' to market his own movie soundtracks. Clever little chap.

Jackie Brown follows the formula of Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction, you know, a zesty mix of movie dialogue excerpts and forgotten classics from the 60's and 70's. There are some good tunes on the Jackie Brown soundtrack, unfortunately there's a lot of filler, incidental dialogue and too much formula.

Saying all that, 'Across 110th Street' by Bobby Womack and 'Who Is He (And What Is He To You)' by Bill Withers kick absolute ass, and deserve to go down in movie soundtrack history. (AM)

PAUL McDERMOTT

Unplugged EMI



Paul McDermott host of the ABC's Good News Week (and former Doug Anthony All-star) has finally released his debut solo album. Unplugged is a collection of monologues taken from the 1997 series of Good News Week, and is guaranteed to have even the biggest tight-arse, miserable bastard reduced to hysterics within moments.

Be warned, nothing is sacred. Listen as Paul tears our nations' leaders to shreds, impersonates

Pauline Hanson, quips about the death of Diana and generally grabs societies comedic taboos by the balls, and says 'whistle or you'll lose them'. Absolutely, defiantly, recommended. (AM)

MADONNA

Ray Of Light Warner



If you hate Madonna, chances are listening to this album isn't going to alter your perceptions of her. On the other hand, if you're mildly indifferent or just a plain old fan, prepare to be surprised. Madonna has once again reinvented herself, 90's style, thanks largely to producer William Orbit who gives the whole project a hell of a lot of street cred, as well as wicked beats. The first two singles 'Frozen' and 'Ray Of Light' are a good example of what's on offer here. One particularly standout track is 'Shanti/Ashtangi' where Madonna speaks in tongues, or sings in this case, over exotic Middle Eastern percussive beats and chanting. Cool. (AM)

THE CHARLATANS

Melting Pot Shock



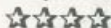
Rather than being an out-right greatest hits package, Melting Pot serves as a document of The Charlatans seven years signed to U.K label Beggars Banquet. Melting Pot contains some absolute classics such as 'The Only One I Know' (one of the songs of 1990), 'Sproston Green' (the U.S version) and 'Can't Get Out Of Bed', to name but a few.

Other notable tracks include the Chemical Brothers mix of 'Patrol' (one of the Chemical Brothers earliest mixing jobs) and the two new songs 'One To Another' and 'North Country Boy'. Groovy guitar pop never sounded this good. (AM)

Vitro

Distort

Independiente Records



I don't know why I like this release so much... perhaps it's the savvy blend of U2 'Pop' and NIN, perhaps it's just the way I can leave it on repeat without getting sick of it. Whatever it is... it works. The opening track 'Mentally Dull' is the first single and sets the pace, although tracks like 'Liquid' and 'Useless Things' are also well worth a listen. Beats, electronica and synthetic harmonies, not my usual

CD REVIEWS

cup of tea, but there you have it.

THE FEELING GROOVIES

Down Deep
Mushroom

☆☆☆☆

Recorded on Joe Camilleri's Jazzhead label, The Feeling Groovies deliver a decent collection of jazz funk on their second album to date. The band developed cult status playing The Lounge in Melbourne and even though recorded on few takes to catch the live feel, the album doesn't quite carry that, but there are a few swing 'n catchy tunes in 'Myseriososo', 'Koo-kee' and 'Quintessential'. Most songs are instrumental which also allows the musicians to show off their skills with great keyboard action on 'Someday' and funk charged guitar on 'Groovies are Go'.

An album that left me feeling pretty groovy. (PM)

SYNTHETIC

Singles

Mandaly
Flowers Bloom
V2

☺☺☺☺

This is not a dancefloor track, but it's totally lovely all the same. And it's being caned to death on JJJ. Very reminiscent of Olive and Everything but the Girl, and very unusual to find a drum and bass track chugging along at less than 150 beats per minute.

My major complaint is there's not enough variety in the remixes. Using Robin Guthrie from the Cocteau Twins is a nice touch, but getting PFM and Alex Reece both to remix the same track is a total waste of time and money. If I ran this record label I would have pulled in Rabbit in the Moon to do a storming trance/house version and I would now be very rich. (CH)

Fire Island feat. Loleatta Holloway
Shout to the Top
JBO

☺

It's not really fair to have me review this cos I hate garage, but here goes...

OK - imagine this: you take an old Style Council track by Paul Weller and give it the soul/gospel vocal treatment. Then you lay down a completely retro, shamelessly cheesy 70s disco track. Then you flick the tape round to a host of well known house producers for a complete dancefloor rebuild. What

do you end up with?

Well for a start, you end up with loads of money, cos you know that all the commercial club DJs will love it and you're guaranteed a place on the next five 'speed garage' compilations.

Apart from that, you end up with a piece of crap. I know we're going to hear this heaps at certain clubs, and it's going to send me running out the door. (CH)

Albums

Stormboy
Stormboy
Azwan Transmissions
(dist. MDS)

☺☺☺☺☺

I first saw Stormboy play live at Strawberry fields, up near his home in Brisbane, where he lifted me into a blissed out acid and amyl trance and had me dancing round like a bunny with a silly grin. So when I played a gig with him last weekend, I HAD to get a copy of his CD. What can I say - it's a fuckin' wicked non-stop techno-trance trip with a very European sound. The liner notes say "This is as close as I can get to what is in my head at the moment..." If that's true then this music seems to say Stormboy is a really good bloke with the right attitude and there's nothing he likes better than a crowd of people dancing with their hands in the air. If I could, I'd make babies with this man. As it is I'll just have to make do with the CD. (CH)

Various Artists
Brassic Beats Volume 3
Skint

☺☺☺☺

Hmm, well, let's start with the obvious ... this is volume 3 of the Brassic Beats series which showcases the cream of artists on the Skint label. There's no denying Skint are one of the most influential forces around lately, carving a major swathe with their big beat and trip-hop signings.

There are cuts here from Bentley Rhythm Ace, Fatboy Slim, Midfield General, Lo-Fidelity Allstars, Cut La Roc and others, guaranteed to please the fans.

I sat around listening to this with a mate and a few beers, the other night, and we had a long debate about whether this volume was as good as the first two. We were wondering if the whole big beat thing was growing a bit predictable and in danger of losing its edge. We didn't come to any conclusions and ended up falling on the floor pissed - if you know the answer, please write in and let us know. (CH)

CD
REVIEWS

THE HAPPENING THING

Whats hot and where

Just in case you haven't noticed... **Squidfinger** launch their new CD, '**Jam 100% Fat**' at Victoria Hall, Fremantle, this **Saturday**, with **Spank** in attendance. The whole night will take the form of a musical (or rock opera, if you prefer) so at the very, very least... it should be something different.

Found your social life almost non-existent since the closing of the PICA bar? Rekindle your café friendships at the **Grosvenor** this **Friday** when the **Air Ensemble** re-unites for one special show. Grab your beret and get your ass there!

The new funky cafe to be seen at is **The Tropicana**, an extension of the popular Sydney cafe, which hosts the **Tropicana Film Festival**. Perth provided a disproportionate number of finalists this year, so in celebration, the 16 finalist's films will be screened at the cafe on **Saturday, March the 4th**. Ask Gorgeous George for details...

The Flanders have just signed a two album deal with **Deep Elm**, the American record label responsible for launching **Nada Surf** (the band behind JJJ favourite 'Popular'). A USA tour is on the cards sometime after their American release in June. However, here in Perth their new CD '**Mud and Five Ways to Serve It**' will be released in exactly one month's time at the **Newport**. If that isn't soon enough for you, they play the **Grosvenor** front room on **Friday** night.

60's folk singer **Arlo Guthrie**, the man behind the rip-off that is the Jim Beam ad and writer of the classic protest song '**Alice's Restaurant**' will be coming to Perth soon. He will be playing at the **Octagon**

Theatre next month with **The Velvet Janes** in support, returning from their US tour.

Jeff Buckley fans were very disappointed when the singer drowned on June 1st last year. According to all reports, he was happy and looking forward to releasing a new album to follow up his critically acclaimed debut 'Grace'. However, his mother, Mary Guibert has been working with his colleagues, bandmates and friends to compile a double CD set called '**Sketches (for My Sweetheart, The Drunk)**'. The double CD set will include four-track recordings, live performances and pre-production tapes of the intended album. Whilst I don't doubt the intentions of those that worked on the project, one can't help but notice that the release dates immediately precede the anniversary of his death...

Delicatessen have acquired a bass player and are taking him for a test-drive at **Mojo's** on **Friday** night. AcidJazz hepcats **Bunghole** provide emotional support in conjunction with DJs.

The **Newport** is going big guns this **Sunday** with a massive 8 band / 2 stage line up... they haven't told us which bands are on which stages but anyway, the line up reads **Prawns with Horns** (with Horns), **FOE, 3PH, Taxi, Homicidal Jungle Cats, Nectar, Earshot** and **Bumfluff**... big gig! If you haven't seen the new, improved and re-gooded Prawns lately, this could be the best time to do it.

If you want your event/gig to be a happening thing, call 9430 7875
Fax 9335 9058, email gig@vrl.com.au
or send a bloody courier pigeon....
the deadline is noon Sunday.

POTENTIALLY TRUE

Anodyne are now signed to the magnificent new and local label '**Half Light**', along with Red Jezabel, Plutonic Girl and Glimmer. Half Light will be organising distribution and promotion in the US in conjunction with Parasol Records. Unfortunately, Parasol already have a band called Anodyne, so guess which band will be 'The Artists Formerly Known As...'

Apparently things can't be sugar-coated forever, and it is time for pop trio **The Jubes** to call it a day. Sources close to the band said, "It's always sad when things like this end, but it's better than having a multiple homicide on your rap sheet". Watch out for another band called **Joob**, who didn't even have the decency to wait until the name was available...

The Whitlams have finally made it to the toppermost of the poppermost, having scored their first platinum record... not bad for an independent release! They are looking for someone to make the presentation and thus save themselves the embarrassment of awarding it to themselves... **Gough Whitlam** is apparently high on the list of contenders.

In disturbing news for those of you who knew and loved the Orient when it was pumpin', **The Nads** have all been sighted in town recently and are threatening to perform again, with three exploding drummers (?) Expect to hear songs like 'Humphrey You Fat Prick, Put Some Pants On' and the Rotto anthem 'Tentland', sooner than you might have feared.

A crazy German has demanded that the public be made aware that a significant proportion of successful Perth promoters are pigeon-toed. Look at your feet - right now! Have you got what it takes?



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DRUM/PERCUSSION TUITION, All styles \$25ph contact Reg Zar 9335 2327.

DRUMMER WANTED for extreme Death Metal band, influences-Meshuggah, Pungent Stench, Inextremis, Blood-duster. Call Damien 9246 0312 or Brett 9376 7761

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Ph Bob 9328 1772 All hours.

AMP Yamaha Budskan practise amp \$300 Ph: 9336 6225, Fax: 9430 4383

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