

# ROCKLINE



## KATHERINE TURMAN HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA

All the news, gossip & metal happenings stateside

■ So I'm checking out the local weekly paper, looking for a great show – okay, good show – coming up. A passable local band, perhaps? A long-awaited out-of-town line-up, perchance? Nothing. Zippo. Zilch. Foiled again!

When the most exciting events in recent memory are the first LA appearance of **PRETTY BOY FLOYD** in four years (complete with before-show meet 'n' greet, no less!) and the ABBA cover band **BJORN AGAIN**, you know it's the summer doldrums. Too bad LA's ennui seems to have begun quite a bit before the summer season.

While lead **RED HOT CHILI PEPPER** Anthony Kiedis is cooling his heels in rehab, his Pepper pals have formed another band. **SPREAD** is the name of the new line-up featuring guitarist Dave Navarro and drummer Chad Smith.

And speaking of musicians moonlighting while their singer is drying out... yes, that was a **STONE TEMPLE PILOT** reference! Seems Scott Weiland (who was spotted drinking and smoking a leafy, illegal type substance at LA's massive Weenie Roast concert – so much for "just say no!") has broken the silence about the future... and there is one, apparently (hey, STP owe Atlantic two albums!). Mr W is working on a solo album, which he hopes to have out by Christmas (not the already recorded **CHRIS GOSS** produced 'Magnificent Bastards', apparently).

His three co-Pilots hope to have their little project, now called **TALK SHOW** (formerly Vitamin, momentarily V05), out on disc even before that. We can say "highly unlikely" on the timing of both, but Scott assures that STP are *not*

broken up, just flying different paths for the moment. Whatever.

The real question round LA is not 'Where are **GUNS N' ROSES**?', but rather, 'Does anyone care?' Longtime GN'R collaborator and hanger-on West Arkeen sparked a moment of interest in the Gunners when he passed away from a drug overdose at the end of May, but few seemed sorry to see West, whose substance abuse problem was legendary, depart this world. In fact, one long-time GN'R insider blithely quipped, "Yep, West is dead as a doornail."

Ironically, West's new band was called **THE OUTPATIENTS**. The late Mr Arkeen is best known for his co-writing credit on 'It's So Easy.'

In related news, be on the look-out for Duff McKagan, record mogul. The bassist has formed a record company with his long-time friend and **BODY COUNT** guitarist Ernie C. Look for them to seek out new talent, and the best of luck to two of the nicest guys in the biz on their new venture.

Speaking of new talent from familiar faces, former **JETBOY** guitarist Billy Rowe is back with a new line-up known as **AMERICAN HEARTBREAK**. Their musical approach – a high energy, trashy, snotty, punky one – has attitude galore in songs like 'Methadone Baby' and 'Richey James'. Want info? Write to American Heartbreak at 663 7th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118.

Big buzz 'round the City of Angels for the new band **ZODIAC 5**, featuring musicians who've played with **STEVE VAI** as well as **LIZZY BORDEN**, but we won't hold that against 'em! Zodiac 5 (there are only four of 'em, go figure!) are doing a decidedly '90s music thing, with songs like 'Bubblewrap Shades' and 'Silverface', sounding like North Hollywood's answer to Oasis.

On the next level up, Jonathan Davis is venturing outside his **KORN** comrades to work with the Dust Brothers on a track for the upcoming *Spawn* movie.

In other Hell-Lay band news, groups who've gotten deals aren't exactly making massive inroads into the national consciousness. (Even Korn seems to be experiencing a bit of a sophomore slump themselves). The new **SUGARTOOTH** disc is sorely overproduced and directionless (thanks to those fine Dust-y Brothers) and look for Geffen to say, "See ya, Sugartooth," soon.

**SILVER JET**, while wonderful, seem stalled at the starting line, ditto the cool **AGNES GOOCH**, who feature ex-members of the late, sorta great **LIQUID JESUS**.

Guess it's that silly, whacky punk ska thing that sparks the ears of radio programmers and 'the kids', and the only LA band looking to make big waves this season is **SUGAR RAY**, whose cover of 'Stand And Deliver' and aforementioned devil-may-care whackiness may just make 'em the dark horse favourites.

My sole saving grace? Reports are that **IMPERIAL DRAG** are working on a follow-up to their immensely terrific debut LP, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed for some much needed moments of rock 'n' roll rapture.

# METAL HAMMER 4 PLAY AT THE ASTORIA

August 15 is gonna be one heavy night down at the LA2. Four ultra heavy bands for a measly four quid!

First up are the hotly tipped River's Edge, whose strong song based rock style has already earned them favourable comparisons with the likes of Pearl Jam and Soundgarden! Following them will be Nottingham's loudest, scariest, nastiest band, Iron Monkey. Next up, and performing a special one-off UK date, are Belgian industrial art weirdos Kong. The evening's headliners require no introduction. Extreme Noise Terror shocked the nation by performing an impromptu set with the KLF at The Brits (and let's not forget the dead sheep gag!) and they're in town to promote their new 'Damage 381' album. Don't forget to take yer earplugs! In between each act, expect our resident rock nutter and DJ Krusher to raise the roof with the hottest tunes and his generally lewd behaviour. Tickets are £4 advance/£5 on the door. Doors open at 7.00 pm; River's Edge are on at 7.30 pm, so get yer arses out of the pub and down there!

## PLUS WIN!!!

Not only will there be a free bag stuffed with CDs, stickers and what have you given away to the first 100 payers, there's also the chance to throw yourself, and a chum from Chelsea Bridge on a bungee, courtesy of our mates at British Knights. Inside each bag, you will find a competition form, which you should fill out and return to BK.



# EXTREME NOISE TERROR

● KONG ● IRON MONKEY  
● RIVER'S EDGE  
PLUS DJ KRUSHER

## I WANT MY FREE SWAG!

# METAL HAMMER 4 PLAY AT THE ASTORIA

Bring this voucher with you to the Astoria and you'll receive a goody bag containing free record company swag. Offer available only to the first 100 people through the door!