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Stars & Bars

Get that new stuff in! Music Issue time is fast approaching. You know the rules: tapes, vinyl or CDs must be either in record stores or available at gigs. Send them c/o yours truly at the NewP by the 26th.

Run, don't walk to see Rainforest before they move to New York. Lead guitar John Booth (who has recently given up duties as main axe for Mystic Jammers) follows the trend of headin' where the action (and A&R people) is (are?) in the Big Apple. They'll be living in Harlem and turning some heads, though Geffen turned up their noses (or at least one A&R twit did) at a recent CBGB's gig. Whadda they know, anyway? Good luck boys — make us proud!

That'll Learn Ya's new release is almost finished, and the band's positively thrilled to work with Paul Kolderie. "All he's done is produce Pixies, Zulus, etc." raved TLY git-slinger Ted Cunningham. "We call him the Guru."

Duke Robillard is still toiling at Lakewest on what will be "the definitive Duke Robillard album," according to producer Jack Gauthier. Duke's "leaving stuff on the (cutting) floor that most guys would give their right arm for." Yowzah! Can't wait.

Speakin' o' Lakewest, Jack Smith and the Hardliners will be entering the studio for some recording soon, too.

Honeybunch is breaking in a new drummer — catch the new lineup at finer music establishments everywhere.

Storyteller Marc Joel Levitt is polishing off his new tape for kids, titled Johnny Appleseed Gentle Hero ready for fall release on North Star.

Oh boy, this oughta be sick. On the 27th, AS220 will present its Marching Mob. Revelers are invited to "disorganize" at 1:30 at AS, wearing something stupid and wielding a noisemaker. The mob will transport itself to the East Side, where they will wend their way downtown, stopping at various gin halls to ease the bunions. It's a mutant "Cabaret of the Oddly Normal" and the day will continue with 17 acts, ranging from John Orsi and Manny Silva to a piece called "Stipe Killers" by Eric from the March and Ron from Fast Forward Rex. Radio Void, Example: None and Carrot Bread (boooooooool-yaa!!) among others will perform all day and night. Admission helps pay AS's heating bills, so plan now for next weekend.

The Music Issue's getting close — if you want your new stuff reviewed, get it to me by Friday (Jan. 26). If not, there'll be another in a few months. Also, if you're in a new band, we're doing free band listings again. Send in the coupon somewhere in this section by the first of February.

Bonehead that I am, I wrote last week that Jack Gauthier is producing Duke Robillard's new album. Wrong. Duke's doing his own production, Gauthier's engineering.

Paul Geremia's acoustic blues set blew my doors clean off at the Great Woods Blues Fest a few months ago; he'll do you too at Stone Soup Saturday night.

AS220's Marching Mob is also on Saturday, with about 16 acts during the day and night. Highlights? Probably Stipe Killers, Tacky Wallpaper and the merry Breadheads of Carrot Bread. Do it for a fin. No smoke machines, please. 'Tanks.

On Sunday, if everyone isn't arrested Saturday, AS premieres Sessions, an open jam "in a non-commercial relaxed setting." There'll be a prize for best original composition. The sounds start at 4.

Word from URI is that Peter Buck (R.E.M. twanger) will be appearing with Drivin' n' Cryin' this spring, as he takes time off from "Mister Disco" Mike Stipe (who will never be forgiven for "Stand") to support another Georgian cause. R.E.M.'s not the only bee in his bonnet, I guess.