

SUNDAY

WHAT'S ON

BEST ALBUMS

Larry Matuma & Kalimba

One Man's Poison (Safari)

You may not expect to hear energetic, intelligent African and African-influenced music on a locally-released independent album, but visiting Zambian Larry Matuma and his band Kalimba have really cut the mustard with this lushly textured long-player. Matuma, who has a string of records back home to his credit — including one which raced to No.2 on the Lusaka hit parade — has produced an album that avoids the self-indulgent and repetitive excesses of much reggae and afro-rock. The irresistible Uya Teo on Side One was my favorite track (tremendous production) while Street Jive also impressed. Through the mix underlays Conrad Henderson's bass, the keystone of the song's urgent rhythm. The two most depressingly predictable numbers are the title-track, 'One Man's Poison' and 'Another Day', which both seem to have been written with one eye on commercial radio.

John Mangan

Beggars' Banquet

The First Feast (BMG)

In a market flooded with fourth-rate compilations centred around video hits, tired remixes, and regurgitated pop, finding 'First Feast' is like advertising for landfill and being delivered diamonds. A compilation of acts that innovative British label Beggars' Banquet has launched from obscurity, and that have in turn lifted the label from a similar state, it is a "best of" drawn both from the vaults and current signings.

The best example of this past and present feature is the inclusion of Bauhaus ('She's in Parties') and the two acts formed from the fraction of Bauhaus, Love and Rockets with their successful 'So Alive' and Peter Murphy ('Deep Ocean, Vast Sea'). The Fall, The Fuzztones, Loop, and Luxuria are the better known acts on the album, which boasts equally creative bands such as Flesh for Lulu, Fields of the Nephilim, Gene Loves Jezebel, and the French folk-feedback group Passion Fodder. The only letdown is that one track from each band only could be included, and some ('The Cult, Nico, and Australia's Died Pretty') were left out.

Thomas Taylor

Gas

Gas (Mushroom)

Gas's self-titled debut album could just about sum up the Australian music scene at the moment (the scene away from the INXSs and Kylie Minogues of this country, that is). The former slogger of a promising but ultimately failed band tees up with a well-travelled session guitarist and a few of his mates, they play the pubs and have put out a half-hearted record liberally sprinkled with '60s and '70s covers.

If that sounds a little harsh then listen to this record by former Catertruck frontman Paul Janovskis — now known as Paul Dean — and his buddies and find out for yourself just how original and utterly devoid of inspiration the local music scene is at the moment. After the two opening tracks 'Burn So Bright' and 'Thorn' that are so full of musical clichés that Dean and co. could almost be sued by just about every rock'n'roll band that ever existed, Gas launches into the album's one saving grace, 'Loving You', a slinky R&B number.

Nicholas Johnston

THE AGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**TYRNAROUND**, Funlers Club Hotel, Fitzroy, free.  
**VELVET HAMMER**, Sarah Sands Hotel, Brunswick.  
**WINTERSET**, Albion Charles Hotel, Northcote, free.

INDOOR  
OUTDOOR

From EG 4

DANCES

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH** with Colonial Dancers and Up To Scratch Band, Carlton Community Centre, 150 Phipps St, Wed 8 pm, \$3, 4/4 11/30.  
**AUSTRALIAN SEQUENCE, OLD TIME, NEW VOGUE**, Nicholas Hall, 148 Lonsdale St, City, Today 1 pm, 5/1 3/0/9.  
**BALLROOM**, Ince Park Hall, Margate Ave, Frankston, Thurs 8.30-10, \$7, 7/5 9/4/5.  
**BALLROOM**, Bulleen/Templestowe Community Centre, Thompsons Rd, Tues 8 pm, \$5, includes supper, tables from 7 pm, free, 8/9 2/0/5.  
**BUSH, V/M/C**, Ringwood United Church Hall, Station St, Sat 8 pm, \$6 includes supper, 8/12 3/0/0.  
**BUSH** with Juggularity, Moreland Rd Baptist Hall, 382 Moreland Rd, Brunswick, Sat 7.30 pm, \$5, 3/3.  
**CAFÉ SOCIETY BALL** with Norm Harris and the Australian Showband, Cafe Cicquot, 380 Lygon St, Carlton, Wed 8 pm, \$20, 3/4/8 1/3/4.  
**50/50**, Social Hall, Brunswick Rq, Mitcham, Sat 8 pm, \$5, BYO supper, 7/22 1/3/25.  
**50/50** with The Five Pennies, Altona Workers Sports Club, 1 Altona Rd, Sat 8 pm, free.

**ACOUSTIC WORKS** with Kerri Simpson, Terry Bartholomew, Paul Cummings, Chris Wilson and others, Royal Derby Hotel, Fitzroy.  
**ANDY BAYLOR'S CAJUN COMBO**, Sarah Sands Hotel, Brunswick, 3pm, Royal Derby Hotel, Fitzroy, 9 pm.  
**ANGELS**, Carrers Nightclub, Preston, Princes (early).  
**BIG DEAL**, Turf Club Hotel, Caulfield.  
**BIGGER THAN TEXAS**, Edwards Tavern, Princes (early).  
**BIG HOME ORCHESTRA**, Albion Charles Hotel, Northcote, free.  
**THE BLACK SUN**, Purvers Club Hotel, Fitzroy.  
**BRENT PARLANE BAND**, Flower Hotel, Port Melbourne, 6.30 pm.  
**COOL RUNNING**, Spenceman Hotel, Richmond, 9 pm.  
**CHRIS WILSON**, 103, Princes.  
**CRACKAJACKS**, Royal Derby Hotel, Fitzroy, 9 pm.  
**DE ARROW**, Matthew Fingers Hotel, Chadstone.  
**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME**, The Tote, Ivanhoe Hotel, Collingwood.  
**ENTOURAGE**, Mitz's, Brighton, 4.30-7.30, free.  
**EXTREMIST POP EXTRAVAGANZA**, The Tote, Ivanhoe Hotel, Collingwood.  
**FALLEN ANGEL**, Sarah Sands Hotel, Brunswick (early).  
**59 SHARP**, Spout Rock Cafe, Or Kang and Duffley St, City.  
**FUNHOUSE**, Evelyn Hotel, Fitzroy.  
**GAS**, Leading Dog Pub Brewery, Fitzroy, 11m.  
**GRAND WAZOO**, Station Tavern, Princes (early).  
**GUTTER SNIPES**, The Tote, Ivanhoe Hotel, Collingwood.  
**HELLMEN**, Corner Hotel, Richmond.  
**HELVELLIN**, The Tote, Ivanhoe Hotel, Collingwood.  
**HENRY ROLLINS BAND**, Corner Hotel, Richmond.  
**HIMMELVOX**, Baden Powell Hotel, Collingwood.  
**INIGO JONES**, Royal Artillery Hotel, City.  
**INTRIGUE**, Vogue's, 4/8 Church St, Richmond, free.  
**JAY MACLEAN BAND**, Geelong Polo Club Pub Brewery, Auburn, 5-8.