

POPUSTAR

Concert Hotwire



Ashanti

JULY 1, 2002

Camara ended the Swedish soccer team's involvement in the World Cup.

It wasn't a good weekend for Scandinavian football. The day before, England beat Denmark 3-0, which meant they would progress to play Belgium or Brazil, while the Danes packed their bags, picked up their passports and checked the flight times back to Copenhagen.

The Luger staff can shake off its disappointment by concentrating on a summer schedule that sees the company busy with its management acts, the local acts it represents and promoting international acts.

Of the management acts, The Hellcopters is dividing its time between making a new album and working live in Scandinavia starting July 12 with Kent and Thatrom on a Kalas tour – that's Swedish for party – (although Hellcopters recently lost some good support slots when the Ozzfest shows in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki were canceled).

The (International) Noise Conspiracy began a summer run at the Luger 10th anniversary bash at Hultsfred, then moved on to play Austria, Germany, Italy, France and the U.K. for the Reading-Leeds Carling Weekend (August 23-25). Petter, the Swedish hip-hop favourite, is playing here until July 12 and then setting off to do another circuit of the country with street-dance act Bounce.

On the international touring front, the company has Accelerator – The Big One for the third successive year. Last year's event featured The

Strokes, The Hives, Magnetic Fields, and Kathryn Williams.

• **UNIQUE AMONG SCANDINAVIAN festivals** – in fact, unique among festivals anywhere – is **Kalottjazz & Blues** (June 27-30), which straddles the Sweden/Finland border with the action equally split between the two countries.

The cities of Haparanda in Sweden and Tornio in Finland are only separated by the meeting of the Tornionjoki and Muonionjoki rivers that define the border between the two countries, and form one of the most important marketing centres in what is commonly known as Lapland. It's also the area's main distribution centre for fish, Russian furs and locally woven fabrics.

The two cities only have a combined population of around 30,000 and most of the festival takes place in the two open-air market squares and local blues clubs.

The acts are drawn from all over Scandinavia, although most converge on the event from within Sweden and Finland to play a festival founded on jazz, blues and funk.

• **THE GOLDEN GOAL FROM Senegal's Henry Camara** that sent Sweden out of the World Cup may have sparked even greater productivity at the offices of **EMA Telstar** in Stockholm as on June 16, Carl Pernow, the company's chief financial executive, said, "Since we lost the game against Senegal today, the staff will now work 110 percent, without watching TV!"

Russia: ONE MAJOR SHOW HAS taken place, which is news in itself in Russia at the moment, with German odd rockers **Rammstein** playing the 25,000-capacity Petrovsky Stadium in St. Petersburg June 17 after the Moscow date (19) at Tushinov Airfield was canceled by the city's chief of police.

However, Ed Ratnikov of Talent Concert International and Nick Hobbs of Charmento – who worked together on the shows – were very disappointed with ticket sales of a little more than 12,000 but feel the uncertainty in the market is responsible for the poor figures.

Many of the country's radio and television stations have suggested the Moscow football riots were caused by dissidents and said the current official death toll of two is way below the real number, so Ratnikov was left with no option other than to cancel.

A letter from General Vladimir Pronin, chief of Moscow's city police, left him and Hobbs with no doubt about where they stood.

On June 13, Pronin wrote, "The chief department for the internal affairs of Moscow City, the Mayor's office of Moscow City, regards the realization of the concert by the German group 'Rammstein' on the territory of Tushino Aerodrome on the 19th of June 2002 to be impossible.

"In the context of the losing Russian football team on the 9th of June 2002, extreme gangs created mayhem in the centre of Moscow, resulting in human death and destruction. According to the substance of Moscow City Police and Federal Security Service information, in the case that the 'Rammstein' concert took place, new provocations could occur leading to at least as serious disorder.

"Consequently, in the case of the appearance of a group who attracts a large amount of public, the chief department for the internal affairs of Moscow City regards that the realization of the concert would be highly dangerous for public security."

Immediately after the riots, Ratnikov told POLLSTAR that all the information he had gathered led him to believe that those involved weren't just soccer fans angry over the World Cup defeat by Japan, but scores of organised groups with around a dozen people in each and all of them armed with baseball bats, pickaxes and other similar tools.

There were an estimated 6,000 fans watching the match on big screens, one of which was located



HERBIE HANCOCK addresses reporters at a June 19 conference on "Tokyo Jazz 2002," a two-night festival in August featuring such luminaries as Wayne Shorter, Michael Brecker, and Omara Portuondo. Hancock will be the music producer for the event.

at Tverskaya Street (formerly Gorky Street) only about a hundred metres from the Kremlin.

On the day of the riots, a crew from staging company JSA was clearing equipment from the Tushino field after Moscow's TVC television channel's playback event for national pop stars the day before. They were told to evacuate the site by local police who said they'd been told there was a bomb there. After a few hours of searching and finding nothing, the police allowed the JSA staff back to finish the work.

Ratnikov admitted, "All of this shows that Moscow is a very unhealthy place to stage a big open-air event at the moment," although he's not worried that his Garbage show at Moscow's 8,700-capacity DS Luzhniki on July 3 will get pulled as the city police have already assured him that the event is not in jeopardy.

The act will also play the 12,500-capacity Ice Palace in St. Petersburg July 2.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

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• **FRED DURST ADMITTED THAT** the death of Jessica Michalik in the moshpit of the Sydney **Big Day Out** in January 2001 during Limp Bizkit's set "emotionally scarred us."

In a public apology to the girl's father, George, in a June 17 video linkup from Los Angeles to the Glebe Coroners Court, he said, "It took me a long time to talk about it. It's made me very insecure about large amounts of people coming together for a concert."

He added, "It's so overwhelming to know that a young girl came to a concert to see her favourite band, which is my band, and left in a coma and died."

Michalik told Durst he had grieved for his daughter and was ready to move on. "Jessica's life was not wasted. There are a lot of



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positive things coming out of it, and that's partly because of you."

For six months, Limp Bizkit had been trying to prevent Durst from having to testify. But Coroner Jacqueline Milledge insisted, saying it was important for the body of evidence to know what he had seen.

Soberly dressed in a white shirt and black tie, and sipping on a Diet Coke, Durst said, "Do I see specifically six or two or five people fall down in the midst of 65,000? No, I have sweat in my eyes, a PA in my ears and I am performing. I am in that zone. When you see a small group fall down, you definitely don't think there is someone dying underneath all that."

Durst told the court he had repeatedly warned Big Day Out organisers Creative Entertainment Australia that the festival's safety measures were inadequate. He said he met with co-promoter Vivian Lees after a crowd collapse at the tour's first stopover in Auckland, New Zealand, to say Bizkit would not be comfortable playing the Australian dates unless changes were made.

"I said we have to fix the barricades. ... He reacted by saying he had been doing his job for a long time and was very, very experienced. I think he thought I was trying to tell him how to do his job."

At the next show, on the Gold Coast, Durst asked his management to put down his concerns about security in a letter to Creative Entertainment that one barricade to break up 65,000 people would be "out of control."

The promoters' response, Durst said, was to put on more security guards but rejected their call for a special barricade. "There was a sea of people with no barricade breaking up that sea. ... It was just massive," the singer said.

He added that to avert future fatalities, acts and promoters should hold pre-show security briefings, and use coloured cards to communicate in emergencies.

• THE AUSTERO RADIO NETWORK'S **M-One Festival** in October has announced Garbage, Midnight Oil, the Whitlams, Goo Goo Dolls, Nickelback, Lifehouse, and Canada's Default on the bill with six more acts to be announced.

The three shows will be at Brisbane ANZ Stadium (October 5),

Sydney Cricket Grounds (7) and Melbourne Colonial Stadium (12).

• **KYLIE MINOGUE** MADE HISTORY in her hometown of Melbourne when tix for her August tour went on sale June 17. The first three shows at the Rod Laver Arena (August 10-12) sold out in one day. Frontier Touring had to announce a fourth, inked for August 14.

• **HARD ROCK BAND PACIFIER**, previously known as Shihad, announced its "Comfort Me" tour through Australia with new Brisbane band The Butterfly Effect opening.

The 13-show club trek, July 2-20, takes its name from Pacifier's new single, the first track off the band's Pulse Studios sessions in Los Angeles with producer Josh Abraham. The song, singer Jon Toogood revealed, was written while the band was recording in America last year.

"When something like the devastating events of September 11 happens, the distance between you and your loved ones becomes really clear," the singer said. "I did need someone to comfort me at that time."

Making his first national tour is dance producer **paulmac**, who goes as part of a 14-piece ensemble. The 10 dates run July 18 to August 17 and are a combination of clubs, festivals and colleges.

• **TOURING AND EVENT COMPANY Jacobsen Entertainment** plans to float the company to raise \$18 million to move into the Southeast Asian market and onto Broadway.

The Jacobsen family - including managing director Kevin Jacobsen and his chairman Kevin Col Joye - will retain a 47 percent stake.

In its prospectus, it forecasts a rise in after-tax profit from \$599,000 for the half year to June 30 to \$4.5 million this time next year.

Jacobsen Entertainment made a fortune with its in-house musical "Shout!" based on the life of '50s Australian rocker Johnny O'Keefe and is keen to make more of these.

• **TIPPED FOR A DECEMBER VISIT** here is **Brian Wilson**, who has not been in the country for 30 years.

Festival Mushroom Records is angling to get **Costeau** (whose "Last Good Day Of The Year" was a fave on the youth radio network Triple J) for dates this year behind its upcoming *Sirena* album. The visit will be a homecoming for singer/songwriter Davey Ray Moor. Born in Beirut to

Australian UN workers and raised in the Middle East, he spent time in Sydney and Canberra, and played with '80s band The Crystal Set.

Boy George wants to bring his '80s clubland musical "Taboo" to Australia, hoping to continue his role as the late Aussie performance artist Leigh Bowery. DJ Shadow could be here next month, while Sophie Ellis Bextor is expected for a promo tour the same month.

• **GLENN SHORROCK, BEEB BIRTLES, Graehame Gobles** and manager Glenn Wheatley lost their bid in court to wrest the right to use the name **Little River Band** from guitarist **Steve Housden**.

But 50-something **Judge Finkelstein** turned out to be a rocker. During the case, when Housden said LRB canceled a gig at the Corner Hotel in Melbourne because Shorrock et al played at the Grand Prix at the same time, His Honour murmured that the last time he was at the Corner was to see Eric Burdon and the Animals and was "disappointed" that there was only one member of the original lineup.

The irony of that statement was not lost on the former-LRB members, who tried to argue they deserved the name more than Housden.

• **BUSKERS AND AMATEURS TRYING** to get noticed during January's 10-day **Tamworth** country music festival will be back next year.

At one point, they seemed destined to disappear after Tamworth City Council suggested that each

busker be responsible for his or her worker's compensation and public liability insurance. In other words, someone who most likely hitchhiked to the festival to play for free and barely made enough from tips to eat and find a place to stay was expected to pay \$1,000 in insurance.

There was an outcry from artists who said entertainment would have to be pulled back. The council got nervous, as the festival brings 50,000 visitors who spend \$30 million in the city. The council met with its insurance broker, Jardine Lloyd Thomson, which agreed that buskers were low-risk and would be covered by the council's own insurance.





But council staff will be roaming about to ensure there are no "problems" like amp wires that could trip people up.

There remains another problem: The Australian Hotels Association has said that all performers must have their own insurance if they are to perform in a hotel. Next year's festival will see 2,500 events staged in 100 venues.

JAPANESE NEWS

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• ON JUNE 15, **FIFA PRESIDENT** Sepp Blatter announced at a news conference in Yokohama that soccer's international governing body would launch an investigation into the **ticketing fiasco** that left huge blocks of seats unfilled during the first round of the World Cup finals

<p>GLORIA LYNNE</p>  <p>"I WISH YOU LOVE" "I'M GLAD THERE IS YOU"</p>	<p>MAIN INGREDIENT</p>  <p>"EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FOOL" "JUST DON'T WANT TO BE LONELY"</p>
<p>JON LUCIEN</p>  <p>"RASHIDA" "DINDI" "LADY LOVE"</p>	<p>NORMAN HEDMAN</p>  <p>"HEALING HANDS" "TAKEN BY SURPRISE"</p>
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