

DARK STAR

All the good rock with Murray Engleheart

First up, we wanted to make mention of the very sad passing of Rose Tattoo's Peter Wells. He was Australia's answer to both Keith Richards and Lemmy, a great friend to this column and a man who really was the walking, talking embodiment of rock 'n' roll. There's not too many folks you can say that about these days. He was will be missed enormously. In case you were wondering, there wasn't a single note of Rose Tattoo played at his funeral service much to the quiet amazement of some folks we're sure. Between eulogies John Coltrane and Miles Davis were played for several minutes. Pete was quite the jazz fan and quite a sax player too you see.



There's a pretty damn great New York Dolls' DVD about the joint called *All Dolled Up* which is based on footage shot by famed shooter, Bob Gruen and his wife. The interviews are almost inaudible at times, but that's okay 'cos they just ramble anyway, but the performances at various clubs in the US like the famed Whiskey A-Go-Go in West Hollywood and The Matrix in San Francisco are killer. It's easy to forget what a great driving drummer Jerry Nolan was and just how young those guys were when they coulda been contenders. The looks they get at the airport with guitarist, Sylvain Sylvain in boots and hot pants are priceless. The best line is actually from a friend of the band who asks the ill-fated Johnny Thunders before he leaves to go on tour not to forget to take his vitamins. Wonderful stuff. You need.

The sadly ignored, but in our little part of the world, much worshipped Grand Funk Railroad weren't just one of the loudest acts on the planet back in the early seventies but had said planet's biggest bass sound courtesy of Mel Schacher. They now have a *Greatest Hits* set out and yep, it includes their 12-minute anti-drug epic *Inside Looking Out*. These are the guys who sold out the Shea Stadium faster than The Beatles, and rightly bloody so.

That *Heavy Metal: Louder Than Life* DVD doco is kinda disappointing. Sure there's some cool footage of Grand Funk, Purple, Maiden, etc. But the interviews are pretty lame. Yep, Dee Snider from Twisted Sister is good on his feet, and so is Sabbath's Geezer Butler, but there's no Dave Grohl (who, despite your snickering, really knows his shit), Rob Halford, Lemmy, or Ozzy (horrifically overexposed as he is these days). The folks from Whitesnake we're sure are good people, but to be brutally frank, they have zero to do with the subject at hand and as such are part of the problem with the film. Compared to the excellent *Punk: Attitude* DVD it all seemed a bit rushed and underdone. Defeat snatched from the jaws of victory basically.

Sydney's veteran garage punks, The Crusaders are almost done with work on their new slab.

Zeke's April tour was cancelled but the April reissues of their 1996's *Flat Tracker* and *Super Sound Racing* are still all go. They'll be re-mastered and come inside some pretty new packaging.



PETE WELLS: 31 DECEMBER 1946 - 27 MARCH 2006

Legendary Rose Tattoo guitarist Pete Wells succumbs to cancer

Last month rock suffered a great loss when Australia's own rock 'n' roll outlaw, Pete Wells, lost a four-year battle with prostate cancer. Pete's slide guitar playing would define the hard rockin' sound of one of Australia's greatest bands - Rose Tattoo. He was a giant in size and stature, but equally big was Pete's heart, which he always shared with his friends, family and fans.

Pete started out his career as a bassist, firstly for Brisbane's Head and then for Sydney's Buffalo, but he soon found his true calling when he started to play slide guitar. He formed Rose Tattoo in 1976 and would play a major hand in writing several all-time classic Australian

rock songs in "Bad Boy For Love" and "Rock 'N' Roll Outlaw".

After the explosive break-up of the Tatts in 1983, Pete ran the House Of Pain tattoo parlour on Parramatta Road, Annandale and launched a successful solo career which earned him recognition as one of the greatest blues guitarist in the world. He eventually rejoined Rose Tattoo in 2000 and played on their last album, 2002's *Pain*.

Pete Wells may have been branded a rock 'n' roll outlaw, but he was quite the opposite. A kind and generous individual, he was an Aussie rock hero through and through.

R.I.P Peter Wells, we thank you for everything you have given to the rock. Farewell to a brother. CHRIS GERSBACH



Movie Quotes...

By Chris Driver of My Awesome Compilation

1. "I'll be honest with you, I love his music, I do, I'm a Michael Bolton fan. For my money, it doesn't get any better than when he sings "When A Man Loves A Woman". (John C. McGinley, *Office Space*)
2. Garth: So, did Jim Morrison give you Del Preston's exact address? Wayne: Yeah, he said EXACTLY London, England. (Dana Carvey and Mike Myers, *Wayne's World 2*)
3. Doctor: We need to get this man to a hospital. Woman: What is it Doctor? Doctor: It's a big building with lots of patients, but that's not important right now... (Leslie Nielson, *Airplane*)
4. Lloyd: What are the chances of a guy like you and a girl like me ending up together? Mary: Well, that's pretty difficult to say. Lloyd: Hit me with it! I've come a long way to see

you, Mary. The least you can do is level with me. What are my chances?

Mary: Not good.

Lloyd: You mean, not good like one out of a hundred?

Mary: I'd say more like one out of a million. [pause]

Lloyd: So you're telling me there's a chance. (Jim Carrey, *Dumb & Dumber*)

5. Dr. Emmett Brown: If my calculations are correct, when this baby hits eighty-eight miles per hour... you're gonna see some serious shit. (Christopher Lloyd, *Back To The Future*)

