Saturday, May 22, 2010 D1 The Southland Times www.southlandtimes.co.nz

INSIDE

## The Southland Times





**Top seller:** Exile on Main St cover of the about to be re-released Rolling Stones album.

## Stones remastered

*KILE on Main St* is widely regarded as the Rolling Stones' masterpiece. It's also an album surrounded by so much dark myth and debauched legend that if the working conditions were really that out of control, it's a wonder it was even made.

The latest re-release of this iconic album will be available next week, and it's the most ambitious repackaging yet. It includes a deluxe edition with bonus tracks, a documentary DVD and a hardcover book, but it doesn't focus on the grungier aspects of the album.

Instead, it preserves the mystery by presenting the original album intact with liner notes and documentary footage that skims the surface of just what went on in Keith Richards' villa-turned-recordingstudio in the summer of 1971.

The 10 previously unreleased tracks shed little new light on the past; instead most of them feature freshly overdubbed vocals by Mick Jagger, a misguided attempt to update an album that needs no updating. The good news is that the original album has never sounded better. Remastered in a way that amps up its clarity and power without sacrificing its

hard-swinging griminess, *Exile on Main St* remains a towering achievement, the capstone to one of the great four-album runs in rock history (preceded by *Beggars* Banquet in 1968, Let it Bleed in 1969 and Sticky Fingers in 1971). The Stones were turning into a band divided, jaded rock stars who would never be as good again, but they had one final burst of brilliance in

The album arrived at a time when the group was the biggest rock band in the world, transformed from the Bad Boys of Swingin' '60s London ("Would you let your sister go with a Rolling Stone?") to jet-

setting celebrities awash in drugs, sex and whatever else they craved. The decadence had set in when the Stones headed to the south of France in summer 1971 in part to flee England and a mountain of unpaid taxes due to unscrupulous management. There they all rented villas and hunted for a studio.

Nothing suited their fancy as much as Keith Richards' 16-room mansion, Nellcote, on the outskirts of the Mediterranean seaport of Nice. It had a huge basement that could be converted into a performance space and the advantage of having the band's least-controllable mem-

ber on premises at all times. The Stones pulled their mobile recording studio onto the property and went to work at the start of a long, hot summer. Richards' mansion housed not just the musicians and their family members, but all manner of Stones hangers-on, from Richards' guitar-playing buddy Gram Parsons to drug dealers and

groupies. By Richards' admission, there was a party going on all the time upstairs; any Stone awake or sober enough slipped down into the basement to play music. Recording sessions began late and often didn't finish for days.

## Time for a change

MATE MARK WILSON



CAUGHT the tail end of a conversation Ian Smith was having on the radio with former Sting sensation Tania Dalton (nee Nicolson) and, like Ian tends to do he made a magnificent point on the double standard in changing room

Obviously being a Sky TV man he has had plenty of experience commenting on the images beamed back from the sweaty recesses below the stands that are the male changing

Now obviously there is some interest from the male viewers who play the particular sport in question be it rugby, league, football or AFL – as to the tactical going-ons, warm-ups, coaches' speeches and maybe the players' body language as a

consequence of how the game is going.

I must admit to finding rugby league's pre-State of Origin changing room cam intriguing; seeing each player's own little pre-game ritual, on the MP3 player, pacing up and down, jumping round like a newborn lamb or taking the Bill Goldberg wrestling approach and head-butting lockers and the like. However, I do not derive much

satisfaction watching players on the massage table or pulling their slacks and tightening jock straps. Wherein lies the point. Female viewers who have been dragged in front of the TV by their male counterparts delight in this segment of the changing room cam They get to sneak another peak at

Dan Carter's chest as if hundreds of billboards and a series of TV ads was not enough.

Let's reverse the situation and you as a good husband, attentive son or young adult desperate to impress a budding mate are faced with the situation of parking up in the front of the TV to watch the latest in women's sport with a few members of the fairer

Now women's sport - my favourites being tennis and volleyball (especially the beach variety) - are a great spectacle at times, especially given the attire involved and those residing inside it but they can also have the tendency not to hold your attention quite as long as your staple man sports of which you cut your teeth as a sports viewer. Things start to waver a little and vou need that carrot of changing room cam to hold your focus.

At present, netball's trans-Tasman competition is one of the main televised women's sports and I would hazard a guess would increase its male viewing audience 10-fold with the introduction of changing room cam.

It seems sexist that male sports stars are subjected to the prying eyes of the female sports fans in what was once a sacred place shrouded in some form mystical aura and yet male eyes anywhere near the female changing room would result in handcuffs.

Gender equality in changing room cam is a must.





welcome to our home

382 NORTH ROAD **TELEPHONE 215 8911** 

MON - FRI 9AM - 5.30PM SAT - SUN 10AM - 4PM

**NELSON • CHRISTCHURCH DUNEDIN • INVERCARGILL** 

www.furniture.co.nz