

Stipe: "Is there something in my ear?"

R.E.M. Reveal

The Vancouver faithful who turned up to see Seattle roots-rock band the **Minus 5** got a special treat: the world premiere of a brand-new **R.E.M.** song, "Weatherman." In town to work on their next album (be patient — it won't be out until 2004), guitarist **Peter Buck** and bassist **Mike Mills** had been sitting in with the Minus 5 when **Michael Stipe** got onstage for the up-tempo rocker. The crowd loved it, but Stipe wasn't completely satisfied. "I couldn't hear myself, because I still had my earplugs in from the Minus 5 set," Stipe said afterward. "Stupid fucking idiot."



Master P: "Yo, Romeo, should we get a pedi too, or what?"

» On the Scene



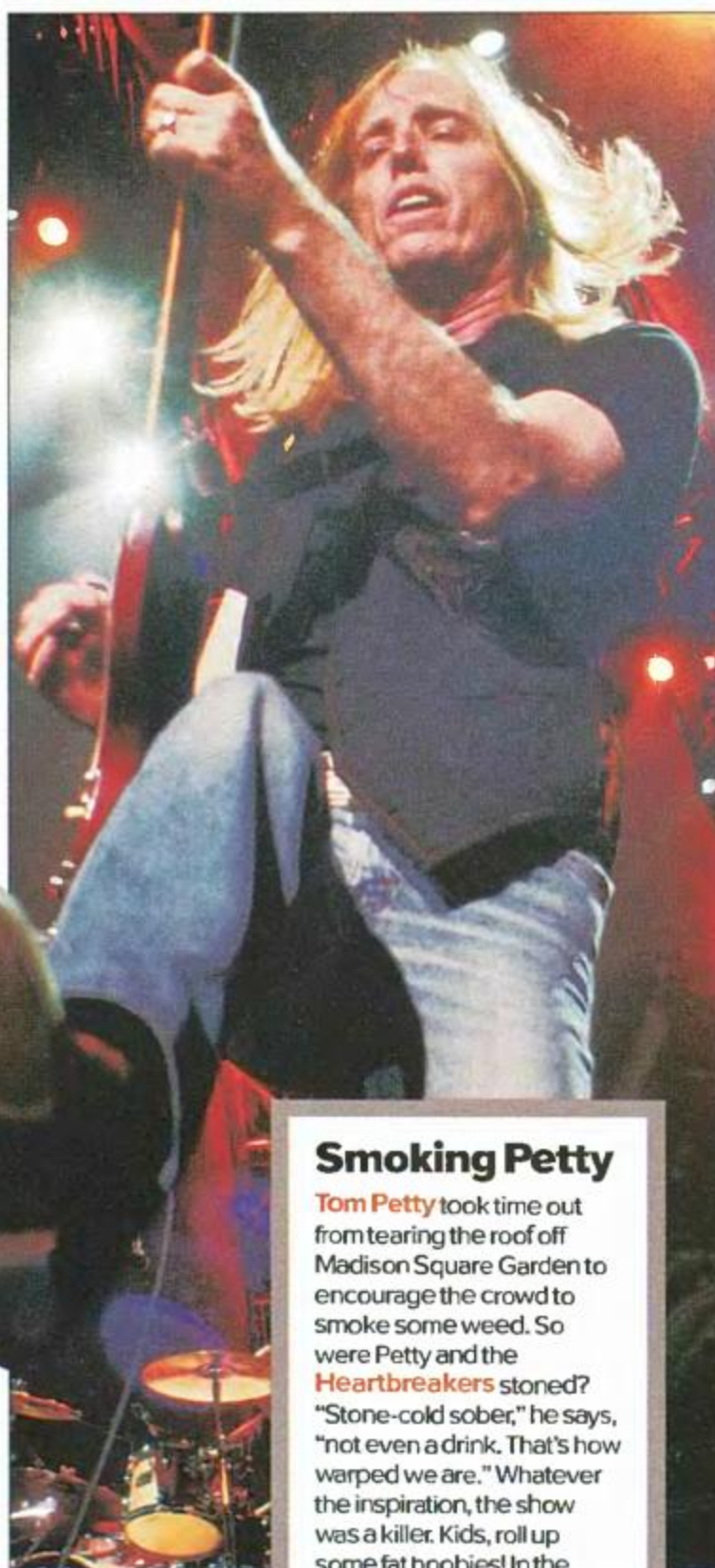
Missy gets her freak on.

● Johnny Knoxville, Christina Aguilera, Mos Def, Ludacris, Christina Ricci, Black Eyed Peas and others checking out Missy Elliott's Motorola party set at the Lot, in Hollywood.

● Ja Rule plus 'NSync's Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick standing in the cold outside Mariah Carey's record-release party at New York's Capitale. Michael Jordan, Thursday.

Phish, CKY, Jay-Z and Beyoncé Knowles got inside before police closed the doors of the overcrowded club.

● Tricky, Slash, Ian Astbury and Puddle of Mudd's Wes Scantlin sitting in with Camp Freddy — an L.A. supergroup featuring Dave Navarro — at the opening of Las Vegas' Sapphire, the world's largest strip club.



Smoking Petty

Tom Petty took time out from tearing the roof off Madison Square Garden to encourage the crowd to smoke some weed. So were Petty and the **Heartbreakers** stoned? "Stone-cold sober," he says, "not even a drink. That's how warped we are." Whatever the inspiration, the show was a killer. Kids, roll up some fat hoobies! In the spring, Petty's coming to a college near you.

Master P Buffs

"I gotta be rollin' right and tight," says **Master P**, who spent a little time getting his nails soaked, buffed and polished in Vegas before the **Billboard Music Awards**. "It makes no sense for me to have all these millions of dollars and — when I shake hands with people — my nails ain't shinin' like my watch." The self-dubbed "Ghetto **Bill Gates**" even invites his son **Lil' Romeo** along to the salon. "Me and Romeo play ball a lot, and our nails get dirty," he says. "We also get massages to stay stress-free and feelin' good."



Unmasked! Nicholls (left) and guitarist Ryan Griffiths

Jingle Bell Shock Revealed!
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The Vines Snap

For the finale of KROQ's **Almost Acoustic Christmas** show in L.A., **Beck** and the **Flaming Lips** led a throng of alt-rockers through the 1985 Band Aid classic "Do They Know It's Christmas?" The **Vines** were onstage, dressed as furry animals, but not singing. "I don't even know if they were born when the fuckin' song was made," says the Lips' **Wayne Coyne**. "So I said, 'You gotta wreck some shit.'" And thus began a week of destruction. The next day saw the Vines booted off **The Tonight Show** after frontman **Craig Nicholls** attacked drummer **Hamish Rosser** during rehearsals. Two days later, onstage brawling got them tossed out of a Boston club gig. "They seemed to be in a volatile state of mind," says Coyne. "If they get too drunk, someone's gonna get hurt."

By Austin Scaggs and Rob Sheffield