

the aforementioned *Punk Rock*. The band promises instrument switching just like old times, and songs from all Sebadoh eras. Sebadoh and The Bent Moustache play at 8 pm Monday, March 5 at the WOW Hall. \$12 adv., \$14 door. – *Vanessa Salvia*

Life in Old New York

In 2000, then-Get Up Kids frontman Matt Pryor released what was essentially a solo record (with the backing of a handful of musicians), *Never You Mind*, as **The New Amsterdams**. At the time, it seemed like a fluke: quiet, acoustic songs with similar lyrical content to the Kids' *Something to Write Home About* – and an Afghan Whigs cover too. But then the Kids parted ways, and in



the years since, Pryor has steadily released music under the New Amsterdams name, including, most recently, 2006's *Story Like a Scar*. The band no longer sounds like a side project, a place for Pryor's thoughtful bedroom balladry. It sounds like a band, now with a regular lineup and a just-under 30-minute collection of new songs written, for the first time, by the group as a whole. Like earlier New Amsterdams releases, the album tips toward the introspective and low-key but makes room for a handful

of energetic rock songs, like the punky and concise "Intelligent Design" and the end-of-an-era signoff "Bad Liar." Pryor's an experienced singer-songwriter, and his boyish, rough-around-the-edge voice is as suited to the New Amsterdams' more alt-country songs as it is the self-conscious heart-on-sleeve acoustic tracks. *Story Like a Scar* is a more polished step forward for Pryor and his bandmates, and one that carries a sense of certainty. This is the band; this is the life that comes after being a reluctant emo star, of sorts. The New Amsterdams play with State Radio and Street to Nowhere at 9 pm Wednesday, March 7 at the WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door. – *Molly Templeton*

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