

BRUM BEAT

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JULE WIELAND AT THE LOCK P8
BUZZINGS ● REVIEWS ● NEWS
CAMPUS ● MIDLAND CHARTS

THE MUSIC MAG OF THE MIDLANDS
NUMBER NINE NOVEMBER 1980

DEXY'S SACK KEVIN

In a sensational and totally unexpected move, Dexy's Midnight Runners have sacked their lead singer Kevin Rowlands.

The shock move came after an argument within the group during the recording of the follow-up single to their last hit 'There, There my Dear'.

The argument blew up in the studio when most of the band thought they were going to record a new song, but Kevin arrived with new lyrics for the 'Keep It' album track.



KEVIN — "told to go"

Three of the band were totally opposed to re-recording the album track. The three other members were indifferent. But the result was that Kevin was told to go.

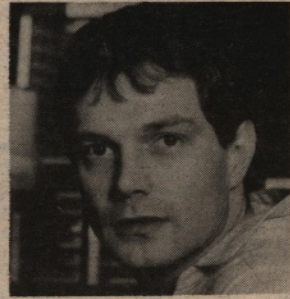
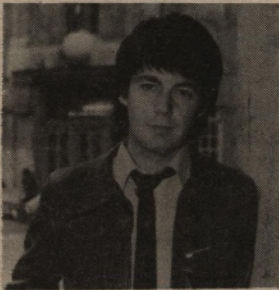
REPLACEMENT

First reports suggested that the forthcoming Dexy's tour had been cancelled but the band have since been in touch with many of the venues provisionally confirming the date while, presumably, they look for a replacement vocalist.

The single, 'Keep It', will, ironically, be released before Christmas.

In the blue Korner...

British Blues and R&B Star Alexis Korner embarks on his first British tour in over ten years on November 30th with a date at Birmingham's Opposite Lock Club for Birmingham Jazz. The man who discovered the Rolling Stones, Free and countless other Rock luminaries is joined by ex-Back Door guitarist and vocalist Colin Hodgkinson.



Radio 1 jocks MIKE READ (left) and PETER POWELL (above) line up.....



.....against JOSH JONES, midfield maestro of The Quads.

WHERE TO GET IT!

Brum Beat is available on the first of every month from the following outlets around the Midlands

BIRMINGHAM. City Centre: Cyclops, HMV, Incredible, Inferno, Lewis's, Odeon, Reddington's, Rockers, Virgin, Preedy's, W. H. Smith, Baileys.

Suburbs: Easy Listening Acock Green, Coda Alum Rock, Music Box Erdington, Mere Green Records Four Oaks, Pied Piper Halesowen, Sound Centre Harborne, Hobdays King's Heath, Embryo Records Perry Barr, Music Centre Selly Oak, Phocus Shirley, Cape Hill Records Smethwick, Music Centre Sutton Coldfield, Sounds Good West Bromwich, Rising Star Winson Green, Birmingham Polytechnic, Aston University, Birmingham University.

AND ELSEWHERE...

ATHERSTONE Pickering's New Music, BEDWORTH Carousel, BURTON R.E. Cords, BROWNHILLS Chasmik, CANNOCK McConnells, CRADLEY HEATH Music Box, COVENTRY Virgin, H.M.V., DERBY H.M.V., RE.Cords, Richards Records, Dixons, DUDLEY Graduate, EVESHAM Record and Tape Centre, Vine Electronics, GREAT BRIDGE Goulds, HEREFORD Buzz Music, HINCKLEY Sound Centre, KENILWORTH Discotrak, Music Supplies, KIDDERMINSTER Seandee Music, Sounds Around, LEAMINGTON Buzz Stop, Rentons, LEICESTER Revolver, St. Martins, Subway Records, LICHFIELD Bradshaws, LOUGHBOROUGH Groups, MALVERN Malvern Music, NOTTINGHAM Fox's, Selectadisc, Virgin, Way Ahead, NUNEATON Shooting Star, REDDITCH Spencers, RUGBY Charles Field, Audio Visual, SHIFNAL Star Hotel, SHREWSBURY Salop Music Centre, STAFFORD Lotus Records, STOKE Mike Lloyd, Mike Stone, Kays, STOURBRIDGE Mark and Moody, STOURPORT Rook Music, STRATFORD Discovery, TAMWORTH Rocket Records, TELFORD Ironmaster, WELLINGTON Langlands, WORCESTER Music Machine, WALSALL Reggae Got Soul, WOLVERHAMPTON Discount Disc, Goulds, HMV, Sundown, Iggy's Music Makers.

BEEB BLITZ ON

BRUM!

Radio 1
Invasion!

For the entire week commencing 2nd November the BBC de-camps from its London base to mount its biggest ever Outside Broadcast operation — from Birmingham.

This week will be prefaced with an all-star football match which will take place at that well-known palace of variety St. Andrews — home of Birmingham City F.C. (a football team of some repute in certain quarters of this city). The match will be between BBC Radio 1 Team and The Pebble Mill Pirates — a team very loosely based on the BBC's Birmingham operation plus several vital added ingredients.

The Radio 1 Hotshots will — injury and international commitments permitting — line-up as Noel Edmonds, Tony Blackburn, Dave Lee Travis, Simon Bates, Andy Peebles, Paul Burnett, Peter Powell, Mike Read and Adrian Love.

The Pebble Mill Pirates are playing their cards close to their chest and declining to name their team until the day, but informed sources have leaked the news that they will include Josh Jones of THE QUADS, ex-Wolves striker Derek Dougan, Jim Smith and Ron Atkinson (managers of Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion respectively).

Josh Jones has reportedly been observed undergoing heavy training sessions at the bar of the Zoo — the hostelry of £1M Wolves Striker Andy Gray — Josh presumably receiving tactical hints through the early hours, while Messrs Atkinson and Smith pursue their normal heavy train-

ing schedule which consists of consuming large amounts of Pasta and Frascati at Lorenzo's. Kick Off is at 3pm — miss it at your peril.

DISCOS

Dave Lee Travis will present his breakfast show every morning from Pebble Mill whilst other presenters will roam the city bringing listeners across the nation "interviews with the locals".

There will be appearances by other daily programme presenters from anchor studios at the Radio 1 Roadshow in the Bull Ring Market and Top Shop in High Street. Their activities are many and varied and will re-

putedly include Noel Edmonds actually helping to build a Mini Metro (Trade Unions permitting) — and two disco shows at The Top Rank Suite.

Proceeds from the football match and the discos will go towards the establishment of a Radio Lollipop broadcasting service for the Children's Hospital and the provision of Radio 1 Scholarships on the Outward Bound course in Gwynedd, Wales. Derek Chinnery — Radio 1 Controller — said "This visit will be unique for unlike previous weeks out all the events will be centered upon one city — Birmingham. There is such a wealth of activity here that it would be impossible to do it justice and still include another centre".

● SEE PAGE 2 FOR FULL SCHEDULE

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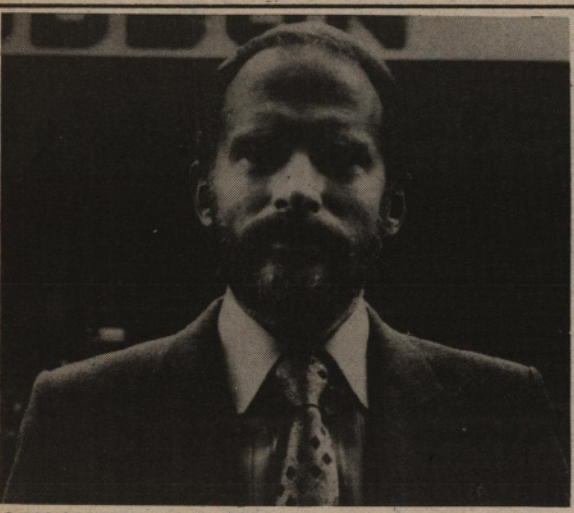
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Odeon Record



CRIS MOTT - Odeon Manager

The Birmingham Odeon is now the country's leading venue. 'We've got 26 continuous days of live shows, which could, with two bookings to be confirmed, be 40 continuous days', said Odeon manager Chris Mott (pictured here).

'The Odeon is now busier than any of the London venues. The previous record was held by the Hammersmith Odeon with 24 continuous dates 4 years ago'.

And the record breaking run will continue into December. 13 dates are already booked, with a further 4 pencil bookings awaiting confirmation. That is already better than any previous December at the Odeon.

The venue expands further in the New Year with the addition of a new bar, the licence for which has already been obtained. 'It will be open in February or March 1981', said Chris.

WOLVES VENUE

A very welcome new live rock venue in Wolverhampton operates at the Gifford Arms on Fridays and Saturdays. Promoter Paul Cox is booking bands across a wide spectrum of styles - his motto being "As Long As It's Live". Bands who have appeared there include Mafia, Switch 7, Bleeding Hearts, Media and Sub Zero. Paul is hoping to book several Birmingham bands including The Thrillers and Denizens.

Upcoming dates include Asign (November 7th), Switch 7 (8th), Tall Story (14th), Doctor Max (15th), Close Rivals (21st), Mafia (22nd), Frenzic Evidence (28th), Hamburger Mary (29th).

SHORT CUTS

Battle Of The Bands

Competitors in the Birmingham heat of the nationwide Battle Of The Bands competition set for Sunday 2nd November at the Odeon at Cerberus, EMF, Last Resort, Otto's Bazaar, Split Beaver and Strontium Dog.

Alliance

Midlands rock band (based in Loughborough and Birmingham) alliance play Brierley Hill Civic Hall on December 2nd, which marks their first assault on Birmingham music fans having previously concentrated on gigs in the East Midlands.

Bell and Pump

Featured at the Bell and Pump Folk Club Edgbaston during

Rialtos Reshuffle

Some hard facts to scotch rumours that abound regarding the "break-up" of Ricky Cool & The Rialtos. Strictly is not true.

Keyboard player Bob Wilson and pedal steel guitarist Stewart Johnson are both leaving the band for personal reasons as the pressure of work has built up.

Stewart has already left as he wanted to concentrate more seriously on his instrument which he feels is better suited to something a little closer to Country.

Bob - an erswhile member of the Steve Gibbons Band - still makes appearances with the Rialtos while the band audition for a replacement. Bob is building a studio in his home and has been unable to devote as much time of this project as he would like due to the band's commitments.

A positive comment to Brum Beat from El supremo himself -

Ricardo O'Cool was "there is no danger whatever of the band splitting".

You can catch the band at Brinsford Lodge, Wolverhampton (November 8th), Railway, Birmingham (20th), and Eve's Club, Cheltenham (24th).

Radio One Jocks Missing Link

Following the closure of the Wednesday night live gig at Bogarts in Birmingham's New Street, the venue has started to hire disc jockeys from Radio One to fill the gap. Bob Harris and Anne Nightingale have already performed. The roster at the moment looks like: Tommy Vance November 19th, John Peel (Saturday) 29th, Robin Valk (from BRMB) December 3rd, Simon Bates 17th.

The Simon Bates gig will also double as the Bogarts Christmas Party where they will be giving away free mince pies, and cutting 'everything' to half-price.

November are Strings (7th), Wayfarers (14th), Jones and Co. (21st), Johnny Silvo (28th), followed by the McCormans (December 5th).

Carnastoan

Birmingham reggae band Carnastoan have a heavy date-sheet for November with gigs forthcoming at Golden Eagle (6th), Birmingham Top Rank (14th), Cedar Club (15th), Shifnal Star (22nd), and Wolverhampton Sports Centre (28th).

Top Rankin'

Upcoming Top Rank date for reggae hotshots Black Slate on Friday November 23rd. Support act are Wide Boys - local boys looking about to make good with their current single "Stop The Boy" which is receiving considerable radio and disco play.

Wedge Label Imminent

Andy Lloyd and The Wedge - their recording contract with Hansa now expired - are planning a post-Christmas release on their own label. November outings are The Moonraker, Cannock (2nd), Coach & Horses, West Bromwich (9th), West Midlands College, Walsall (12th).

Bleeding Hearts Wax

Bleeding Hearts make their recording debut with "This Is The Way . . . O.K." "I Need To Know" - a double A side on the Hednesford - based Crazy Plane label. The tracks were recorded at Ginger Studios in Aldridge. The band have been together for a year and consist of Kevin Smith (Vocals and guitar), Colin Garbett (guitar), Mark Morris (Bass guitar) and Gary Cotter (drums).

UB40 RAIDED

The Leeds Constabulary were among the capacity audience at UB40's Leeds Polytechnic gig recently.

The local police were so impressed by the hot Midlands reggae outfit, in fact, that they even went to the trouble of visiting the group in their dressing room after the gig from where 'they took certain substances for

analysis'.

Contrary to initial reports no members of the band were arrested on drugs charges and at press-time none of the bands sell-out tour dates have been cancelled.

Further action by the police may follow after analysis of the confiscated substances has been completed.

Brum releases abroad

Local bands with imminent new overseas releases include The Wide Boys whose 'Stop That Boy' - just released in the USA on Cicco Records - is now signed to Gira for Portugal and Arabella (French Ariola) for France.

Gira are also set to release 'Brum Beat - Live At The Barrel Organ' double album and the single 'Shooting'/'To The Top'

by the Thrillers. Thriller's single is also released Stateside by Cicco.

The Quads have signed to Polygram Stockholm for Scandinavia who will debut them in that territory with 'There's Never Been A Night'. Polygram are also set to release the Brum Beat Double album 'Brum Beat - Live At The Barrel Organ'.

Hereford new Venues

Hereford City Council have reversed their policy which for the past few years has presented rock music from being performed at the Town Hall and the Shire Hall. No date has yet been fixed for a rock gig at either of the venues, although they are now available for booking.

Banking on Success

"About 100 bands from around the Midlands" have entered the TSB Rock School Competition open to bands and songwriters still at school. The competition culminates in regional finals to be held in February 1981 with the national final to be held in London the following month. First prize is £2,000 worth of travel, with prizes totalling a further £2,000 for the runner-up.

AMBER SQUAD BENDY RELEASE

Amber Squad guitar man Dusty Millar has split with the band to coincide with their new single release on Bendy Records.

Radio 3 Concerts

The BBC Radio 3 Friday Classical Concerts from Pebble Mill continue a programme of Prokofiev, Haydn and Brahms by the Chilingirian String quartet (November 14th) Bartok, Schumann and Haydn by the Bartok String Quartet (28th) Britten, Vaughan Williams and songs by Warlock & Parry performed by Janet Baker and Geoffrey Pratley (December 12th). Tickets are available free from BBC Pebble Mill - Room 709.

CHASE MUSICIANS

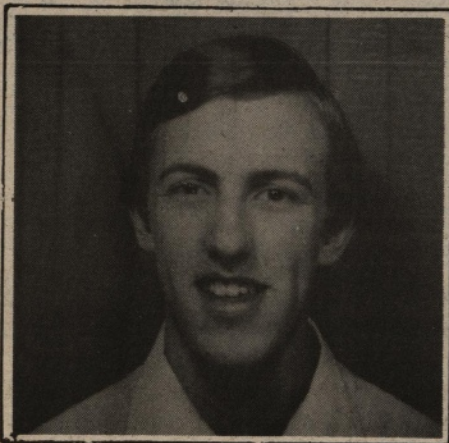


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Tickets £4.00 and £3.50

SHORT CUTS

New Playthings
Brum Beat album artists the Playthings have recruited ex-Liquid Mirrors and Ricochet drummer Tim Ferrell. The band are currently rehearsing a new set and recording a session for November broadcast by BRMB's Robin Valk. The session is being produced by Bob Lamb at his own studio.

THE PLAYTHINGS



UXB Delayed

The new UXB single 'Two Steps Forward, One Step Back' has been held back until December or early January by the Wednesford-based Crazy Plane Records. The band's first single for the label 'Crazy Today' has been receiving Radio One airplay.

Punk Live

Punk is alive and well and coming to Birmingham's Digbeth Civic Hall on November 4th when Birmingham's G.B.H. and Stoke's Discharge join forces in a spectacular celebration of the Spirit of '77. Discharge have a single due for release on the Potteries based Clay label 'De-Control/It's No TV Show'/'Tomorrow Belongs to Us' will be released on November 21st.

Beacon Rock

Featuring during November on the Beacon Saturday night Rock Show jointly hosted by Mick Wright and Mike Davies will be interviews with Dansette Damage, Reluctant Stereotypes and Triumph.

Motor Show Rock

Now that Birmingham is regaining its sanity after a severe bout of Motor Show Madness it is interesting to note that out of all the thousands of pounds spent and hundreds of events organised there were only two rock shows.

Dole Queue Blues R & B band Willy & The Poorboys — in keeping with their name — are admitting all Dole Card Holders at half the regular admission price to their resident Friday Night At The Barrel Organ gig in Digbeth, Birmingham. Willy & The Poorboys — Roger Bromley, Dave Pritchard, Phil Tree and Dave Griffiths — feature on the currently hot 'Brum Beat — Live At The Barrel Organ' double album, with 'My Babe' and 'Hoy Hoy Hoy' and are set to headline the forth-coming R & B Festival to be held in Telford deep in the Shropshire Delta.

They featured Willy & the Poorboys and The Lazars — both sponsored by go-ahead local brewers Ansells who seem to be keen to be seen associating with local rock bands. Good move.

Quads extend Barrel
Quads four week Thursday night Barrel Organ residency now extended indefinitely due to the success of the first four shows. They're really packing them in down in Digbeth — so get there early.

Szajner/Zed

The Initial Record Company of Edgbaston released a synthesiser album by cult figure Bernard Szajner/Zed who gained international acclaim with Lazergraphics. Entitled 'Some Deaths Take Forever' the album is sponsored by Amnesty International and has been a Number One on Sounds Eurorock Chart for 3 months.

Thriller Change

Drummer Keith Burnett is set to join Handsworth Irish Reggae band The Thrillers replacing founder member Brod Baughan who leaves the band by mutual agreement as it was felt his musical ideas no longer coincided with those of guitarist Pat Walsh and bassist Paul Kehoe. Keith was previously with Como and did session work with Dexy's — he starts work with The Thrillers on November 1st.



The Mayor of Kenilworth, Councillor Kenneth Rawnsley, plays witness while The AK Band from the Midlands town signed a recording contract with Battle of the Band Records.

The AK Band - Nev Slipper, Maz Walnut and Johnny AK - sent off an audition tape, hoping to be selected to take part in the nationwide Battle of the Bands competition - which kicks off at the Birmingham Odeon on November 2. The organisers were so impressed that they decided to rush-release one of the tracks, 'Pink Slippers'.

Ironically enough, its release will disqualify the group from the Battle of the Bands contest, which is only open to bands without a recording deal. They will, however, appear as special guests at the regional heats around the country.



THE NEW THRILLERS: Paul, Pat and latest recruit Keith. See 'Short Cuts' below.

Hereford Buzzings

Buzz Music, from Hereford, have moved into larger premises not far from their original base as from November 3rd. In fact, they have moved down the road from 65 Widemarsh Street, to 32-36 Widemarsh Street.

The move to the new premises was made to provide more room for the steadily expanding business. Buzz Music is now 'one of Britain's foremost professional music shops, involved in supplying the needs of some of the best known musicians in the rock music world'.

Buzz's clients include The Pretenders, UB40, The Beat, Steel Pulse, the Selecter, Showaddywaddy, Quartz, Dexy's Midnight Runners and a whole host of other famous names who have contributed to the rise in reputation and scope of the company.

In addition to the record and music shop, Buzz Music also run Sound Enclosures - manufacturers of Flight Cases - from a 3,000 sq ft warehouse on a nearby industrial estate.

As well as providing equipment to bands, Buzz also provide full concert PA facilities for major tours and have recently moved into the studio market, having equipped several major studios. Buzz, of course, also run their own 8-track Buzz Mobile which was used to record the Brum Beat 'Live at the Barrel Organ' album.

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TRENT ROCK

After catering very little for the tastes of Rock fans, during its five year existence, Radio Trent in Nottingham at last stamps itself on the map with a one and a half hour rockshow Monday to Friday from 6.30 'til 8.00 each night — the most frequent rockshow of any radio station outside the national network.

The show will be presented by Graham Neale who is well known in the area, having worked on a freelance basis with BBC Radio Nottingham and Sheffield for the past couple of years and in particular having jointly present Radio Nottingham's award winning rock review show.

Nottingham will now have the best catered for rock audience of any area since listeners may tune into Jaye C's rockshow on Radio Nottingham from 6 until 6.45 Monday to Thursday and then switch to Graham Neale's show and on Sundays Radio Nottingham's Rockcake show is shortly to return.

by DAVE BRETT

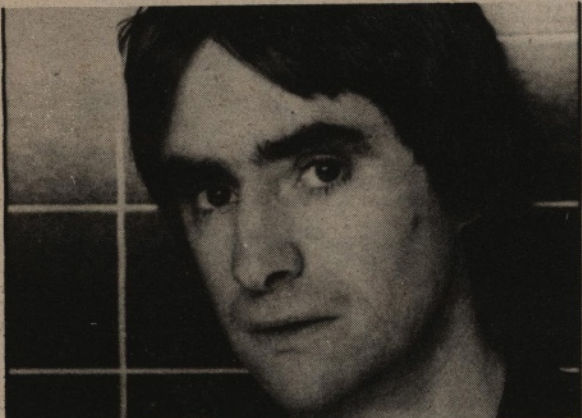
Graham intends that the new Trent Rockshow will have no set format apart from a regular phone-in competition on Wednesdays. The shows will feature both local and national bands with many sessions already arranged. There will also be regular 'in concert' broadcasts both of new and old material and listeners can look forward to 'in concert' shows from Rory Gallagher, Genesis and E.L.P. and others.



Rook Recordings, the Stourport studio who have just become fully operational as a 16-track, 'is hoping to become more involved with talented up and coming bands' by letting them use the studio as a base.

The first band to go out on the road, complete with 2 Kilowatt PS rig and transport is Assyne, a six-piece reggae band who gig in November at Wolverhampton Gifford Arms (7th), Kidderminster Market Tavern (15th) and Leamington New Crown Hotel (25th).

Competition



Are A & M the most generous record company in Britain today or not? It would seem that they are. Following on last month's Yellow Magic Orchestra competition, this month tickets and albums from the Chris de Burgh concert at the Birmingham Odeon on November 14th are up for grabs. All you have to do is answer the questions below and send the answers to *Brum Beat, Competition, 190 Monument Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16*, to arrive not later than second post on Wednesday 12th November. The first three winners will receive a pair of tickets for the concert and an album, with an album for each of the next five correct entries drawn out of the hat.

1. Name Chris de Burgh's latest album.
2. What is the title of his latest single?
3. How many members are there in his current band?
4. Where was the latest album recorded?

Grace Cancel

Stoke's Grace have had to pull out of their Tuesday night residency at Birmingham's Barrel Organ because vocalist Mac Hyne is suffering from a bleeding throat. He has been ordered to rest "for at least three weeks" at the end of which time the band go back into Cambridge's Spaceward studios to finish off recording their first album due out on M.C.A. in February next year.

Coventry '80

A rock concert featuring local bands will be the culmination of Coventry 80 a festival commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Coventry blitz during the Second World War.

The busy programme of events which take up the first two weeks of November also include the world premiere of 'Alpha Omega', "a major new oratorio" written by David Gordon, brother of Cat Stevens who helped to produce the album of the same name. The premiere will be at the cathedral on November 13th.

The local bands concert will be at the city's Belgrade Theatre on November 16th. The gig has been organised jointly by Mercia Sound rock jock Andy Lloyd and the Theatre.

Alternative Radio

EST Radio Station - who describe themselves as 'Your alternative friend in sound from, to and for Birmingham Sunday evenings' - have been forced to delay their launch due to circumstances beyond their control (such as one of their aerials being carried away by the recent high winds).

EST had planned to be at the testing stage by now and although they are now well behind schedule, their enthusiasm does not seem to have dimmed. Despite wasting money on unnecessary items and encountering problems with the aerial system they insist that there is no way they will let the project fall apart at this late stage.

With the administration organised and studio, stickers, jingles, etc, all ready, if their determination holds they could be on air in the reasonably foreseeable future.

Watch this space for news of further developments.

AFTER THE FIRE

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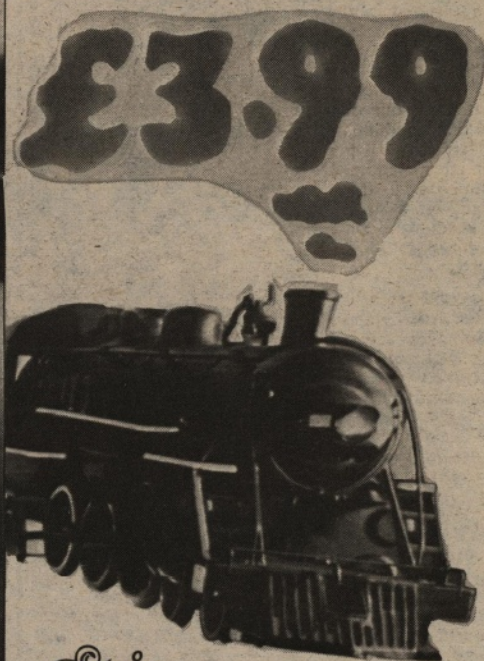
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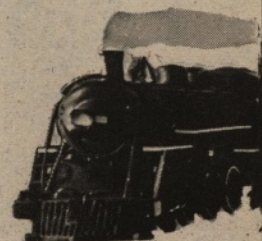
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at the Birmingham Odeon**

(with special guests 'Angel City')



Noted producer Tom Galley recently berated me about my kind comments on the Diamond-head single, which seems a strange thing to do for a man who spends several hours in the studio with Jameson Raid. BUT he played me some of their forthcoming EP and I'm forced to admit it doesn't sound too bad, especially 'The Raid'. Eating words time? On the subject of Diamondhead new demos indicate the rapid progress they're making to superstardom with 'The Heat of the Night' in particular severing the superlatives somewhere beyond the range of human comprehension. A Radio 1 session is lined up.

Local superstar Carl Palmer has split his PM outfit without ever playing a single gig and is apparently joining forces with the weighty Wurlitzer wizard Wakeman in some sort of supergroup. Aghhh.

Singles received on the local lines lead off with a superb understated piece of soft sythed reggae by the Dealers, "Share The World" (MAP) which is a thunderingly good world anthem and deserving of much success yet is being ignored by those media people who are supposed to know what's good for our ears. Bull. Also on MAP is the debut from The Army, "Shuffle Shuffle" which bounds along with a calypso zest and is worthy of better sales than it's receiving. Sticking with ska the Wide Boys "Stop That Boy" (Big Bear) outing is probably one of the best things the label's released and bounds along like a rampant sherbert fountain... why isn't it a hit?

Spizz heads further into the realms of commercial success with "Central Park" (A&M) which has a melody and chorus that turns Athletico into a modern pop band. Viability or credibility... or perhaps both? Final single is from Bleeding Heart on Crazy Plane Records with thin production but solid drive on "I Need To Know" that would make them likely candidates for full treatment from someone with an eye to future success.

Worcester's Fruit & Veg Records come up with a minor classic from The Dancing Did on 'The Haunted Tea-Rooms' and "Squashed Things On The Road", the latter of which is exquisitely understated and menacing... a superb single. Weapon of Peace make an assault with "Children Of Today"/"Woman" (Phonogram) which earmarks them as one of the better reggae dance troupes entertaining this fair isle. UB40 sign in with their latest double-header "The Earth Dies Screaming"/"Dream A Lie" with former being somewhat insidious while the latter is the hit side. Both naturally excellent.

New Fashion second single is likely to be "The Alien" and Mulligan describes their music as moving towards "pakrock"!

The tapes received section doesn't hold much excitement this time although Effigy's "Revvin On The Red Line" could pass in any heavy metal crowd. Aggressive and competent.

The Cutouts boded well with "True War Stories" which reminded me of Starjets, but the rest of the tape levelled out at general mediocrity modern rock. Mafia sounded much more promising particularly "Trip To The John" with no clear labelling process in the music but worth watching out for if there's gigs in the offing. Good songs and good performance.

DR. JAZZ'S DIARY

No less than six Jazzcentre Jazz-tours pass through the Midlands in November.

At the head of the queue comes Barbara Thompson's highly acclaimed Jazz-Rock band 'Paraphernalia'.

Leicester - Braunstone Hotel, for Leicester Jazz Society (11); Nottingham - Black Boy Inn, for Midlands Jazzcentre (12); Stoke - George Hotel, Burslem, for Bridge St Arts Centre (13); Cheltenham - Plough Hotel, for Cheltenham Arts Centre (14); Northampton - Lings Theatre, Weston Favell (28).

American trombonist Jimmy Knepper closes his three week tour on November 16th, with a date for Birmingham Jazz at the Strathallan Hotel, Hagley Road.

Midlands band 'Pulse' undertake a six day trot around the region joined by one of Britain's leading trumpeters - Harry Beckett, and singer Maggie Nichols.

Northampton - College of FE (16); Nottingham - Trent Poly (to be confirmed) (17); Derby - Bluenote Club, for Midlands Jazzcentre (18); Worcester - Crown Hotel, for Worcester Jazz Club (19); Coventry - Bull's Head, Binley Road, for Coventry Jazz Society (20); Telford - Court Theatre, Madeley (21).

BUZZINGS

MIKE DAVIES

News of Sneak Preview who have changed names to Alkatraz... an outfit used to playing in bars I presume. Dansette Damage who continue to improve have an interesting new number called "The American Dream" in their set now which bears investigation and segues neatly into "Assassination". Duran Duran lined up for Hazel O'Connor tour at time of press with major labels apparently expressing great interest and enormous overdrafts.

Albums include a BBC compilation from the Friday rock show "Metal Explosion" which features Brum's Money on one of their finest numbers "Leo The Jester" and it's beyond me why when such dross as the Tygers get deals Money can't make any headway.

Listen out for the new Magnum album incidentally because live numbers at Reading suggest it's their best yet. New venue at The Vine in White Heath bears checking out - as apparently do New England and Oasis - I will report back.

News please of Raymond Froggatt who has been dumped by Jet. What's happening to the album then Froggy because what I've heard so far is superb. Shame to let this one just sit on a shelf like "Memphis Moon". Epitaph from Swell Maps is "Jane From Occupied Europe" (Rough Trade) which is really much more mature than anything they'd recorded previously. In particular "Secret Island" and "Collision With A Frogman vs the Mangrove Delta Plan" stood out but "Whatever Happens Next" was a stunner in anyone's language. Best of luck in the individual projects.

should appear in a feature elsewhere but as a side comment their album "The Label" (WEA) is one of the year's best with a mixture of ska-tinged reggae, more straight white reggae and shades of jazz and rock deftly incorporated. The whole album shines like a beacon above the current Two Tone product and its mirrors with "Factory Wit", "Side With Him", "Reverend Green" and the much ignored singles "Confused Action" and "Plans For Today" standing out. Excellent work from all concerned but special plaudits to Winston Smith on vocals and Steve Edgson on clarinet.

Two Tone news is that Jerry Dammers has recorded a solo single as Mr Foundation, titled "All Rudies In Jail" with a non-original B side. How soon come the Specials split? All not exactly human warmth and close comfort during album records. Incidentally in my UB40 feature last issue the promoter of ill repute was Barry Finch not Barry Pritchard so apologies to any Barry Pritchard who might also be in the game. And Simon's missus is Den not Dee. Type-setters rook KO.

Rockers sent out a nice self-promo sheet for Sticky Music - their new art-form - plus a tape with a new version of "It Takes A Thief" which sounds more and more like a hit every time I hear it. Much impressed by Starfighters on the AC/DC tour especially "Heaven and Hell" which is also available in a limited edition on Motor City Rhythm Records but in somewhat of a below par demo form. Good vocals from ex Studs/Cryer Steve Burton. Watch out for 'em. Also for Tadpoles a new outfit featuring cartoonist supreme Hunt Emerson.

The best Security Boys in the business, West Midlands Security, have now officially recognised the amount of work they put in at gigs in the area and established that branch of their operations as Concert Services. Good on ya. Saw Fashion 2 at the



● CHEVY — "frontline of hard rock talent"

Dudley's Jenny Darren comes back with a new image and another stab on her new DJM album but again she tackles rock numbers that really don't gell with her voice. "Life's Just A Circus" is far from suitable but at least this album's far superior to anything else she's done. Excellent debut from Chevy with "The Taker" (Avatar) which shows them right in the frontline of hard rock talent with a feel akin to the best of Bad Company Great vocals from Martin Cure and some hard hitting drive throughout the album, notably on "Chevy", "Rock On" and the title cut. Reluctant Stereotypes

Zoo on their debut gig and was much knocked out... far more swirling electronics and Tony Dial makes a good front vocal focus. DEXY's live up to their 'we won't play big venues' pledge with a gig at the Odeon November 16, and more snippets a bit further down.

Selecter add Adam Williams (bass) and James Mackie (kbs) from Pharoah and debut the new band at Brum Poly on November 6. The new album - "Celebrate The Bullet" - set for January release.

Interesting rumour overheard in a Coventry pub concerning DEXY's Midnight Runners. Apparently they're in the studio being produced by none other than Bryan Ferry - who doesn't strike me as knowing too much about soul rebels young or old... with Roxy music adding back-up vocals. Interesting speculations if this proves to be true as to what sort of stuff the next album could contain... another "Both Ends Burning" perhaps.

And a p.s. to Doctor Max - let me have gig details or a tape and a phone number c/o Brum Beat - Ta. ●

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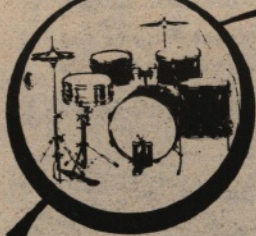
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Club Focus



BY
JULE WIELAND

Now this particular sortie occasioned a slight panic on said intrepid reporter's part. The Opposite Lock having a reputation for catering for the slightly swisher (or more sophisticated) end of the market, meant that I had to cast around a bit for a suitably dressed escort (in a place like this, "minder" does seem a trifle gauche). Anyway, I found one and, putting on my best (or most respectable) outfit, we were ready for the starting grid.

So, off we went in the rain in search of The Opposite Lock. It seemed incredibly small from the outside, but then we discovered that we were only looking at the entrance. (In fact the place is very big). Once you go up the steps to the entrance proper, you notice that The Lock is right on the canal bank; set amidst the 19th century ambience of Gas Street Basin. A very interesting setting. (Though I couldn't help wondering if anyone's ever come out of the place more than a little locked and fell in the cut!)

In the beginning

Originally, the building belonged to British Waterways and the lower part was where they stabled the horses that pulled the barges. This was about 14 years ago when, as the amiable, helpful (and a trifle nutty?) manager Ian

Hone told me "We were very involved in motor racing and Martin (Hone) originally conceived the idea of the Opposite Lock. We used to race all over England and in Europe and there was never anywhere to go after a meeting where you could drink, eat etc. He looked all over the place and found these stables and converted them into the Opposite Lock.

At the time "the whole idea was that it was a jazz club". He mentioned that among many others, Buddy Rich, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins and Earl Hines have played there. In keeping with the idea, Monday nights see Jennie Miller singing her brand of jazz at the club.

Another musical connection was The Factory which Ian used to run (the place it occupied is now the site of King Arthur's Court — more of which later). Ian's brainchild, The Factory developed almost legendary status with virtually everybody who was to become anybody in that era playing there. Bands like Yes, Chris Farlow, Jethro Tull, Led Zeppelin were among the roll call of people "who played there before they made it big".

Music Policy

So far as music goes at the moment "We've had to follow fashion to a certain degree, we've had to change with the times although we haven't lost our identity. We aren't like any other club in town". The Lock are firm believers in live music and always have been. Tuesdays and Thursdays feature Ski, the resident band. There are special music nights — November 19th they'll be having a rock 'n' roll party — a blues and r'n'b night which they plan to hold regularly on Saturday sees Alex Korner doing his stuff, and Froggie will be making a return visit in December.

Talking of music, if you're in the know, EMI have promotional parties in the Studio Bar upstairs — recently these have included those for Paul and Linda McCartney and Kate Bush.

Wednesdays are Golden Oldie nights — nothing to do with pensioners but an evening of sounds of the good old days of Stax, Motown and Atlantic. And these have been going very well according to Roger Harris who boasts "I'm the oldest dj in Brum". He started off at the Lock right at the beginning and worked there for the first six years before trying the sea air of Newquay and a stint at Tiffany's in London. Now back at The Lock, he has a "Crazy Night" on Fridays and Saturdays. Personally, I thought he was a little loney anyway, so he's ob-

viously well suited to doing his Tommy Cooperesque show. He is, incidentally, one of four dj's at The Lock, the other being Nigel Scott (who also works at The Zoo), Dougie and Dave.

Around the Club

Armed with copious details, we paused for a drink at The Opposite Lock Bar. This is a big, high almost barnlike structure with rafters and beams that used to be a warehouse. Round the walls are blowups of cuttings about the club, paintings and motor racing memorabilia — including above the bar, a rather morbid touch. Steering wheels from racing cars involved in crashes. Talking of the bar, bitter's around 65p a pint, lager 70p a pint and shorts 50p. And, talking of shorts, this is the first club on my current researches that actually (large cheer from

a regular feature of The Lock — at the moment it's Tony Avery (till November) but, I dare say, that others are more in keeping with the elegant atmosphere of the place.

Martin's Room

Then it caught me, an elegant Georgian door, complete with pillars that looks as though it's strayed from Dublin's Merrion Square. In fact, we were informed it came from somewhat nearer home — Parker, Winder and Achurch to be precise. And a positive snip it was too.

This is the entrance to Martin's Room which is obviously Ian's pride and joy. Opened in 1972 "this set the standard for all the Midland Clubs. We brought a completely new concept into Brum, it was totally luxurious". It still is. Very spacious with a



THE OPPOSITE LOCK'S IAN HONE

yours truly) has Jamesons. At last, a place that sells Irish whiskey. If you can tear yourself away from the bar, there's ample seating, a smallish dancing area (not really designed for energetic dancing without endangering other people) and the stage.

Up the stairs and you come to the Pit Stop Balcony which overlooks the activities downstairs. It has tables, chairs, two space-invader machines for you to test your co-ordination after exotic cocktails in the next door Venus Bar. Plus the inimitable Roger Harris at his dj's desk.

The Venus Bar is small and intimate — as they say. It's decorated in cool blue — even down to the mirrors. As in other rooms, the tables are of that difficult-to-find but lovely to look at genuine wrought iron variety. There's also a tv to look at if you become bored with boozing or the company you're with. And, yes, on request you can have exotic cocktails.

Then a surprise, you walk through a room that's used as a small art gallery. Exhibitions are

gracious Adam fireplace, leather Chesterfields, Oriental-influenced antiques and rather interesting views over industrial Brum. It has something of the feel of a gentlemen's club — past the port, Jeeves. Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays, there's a disco here — a more standard disco than the music downstairs. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays, the room can be hired for private parties.

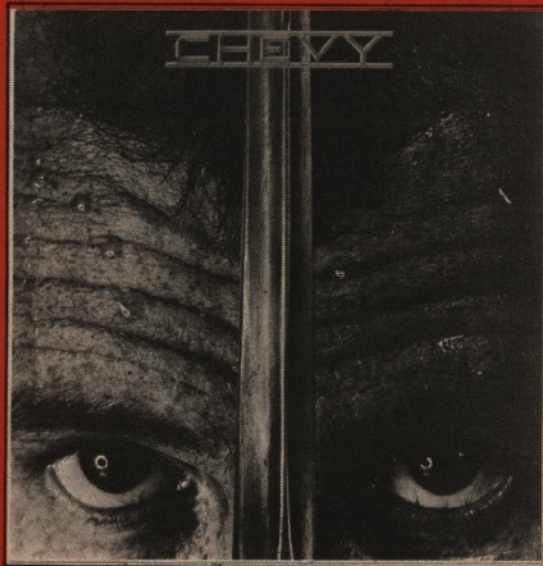
Through to the Studio Bar, which is long and not too lean, where, once again, the owners' penchant for antiques is much in evidence. I detected Bentwood chairs, pub tables, gas mantles, an old black iron flat top Romesse stove, a honky tonk upright and lots more besides.

I resisted the temptation to rush around with a Lyle's Guide and price the stuff — partly because I don't usually carry such reference books around with me.

The chairs and tables are dotted around informally — a million miles away from the usual club decor. It's here that members of the glitterati and luminati

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—they're following natural rock 'n' roll instincts and if the end result sounds as if the band has spent the past 10 years recording multi-platinum albums, then that's a measure of Chevy's class'. —Malcolm Dome—RECORD MIRROR

'Mark my words, Chevy have got 'it' in profusion, and look well set for the stars—be there at blast off'. —Paul Suter—SOUNDS

CHEVY

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and assorted liggers come for promotional bashes.

Lock types

Talking of the sort of people who go to The Opposite Lock, Ian says they have solid membership of over 1,000 who, unlike other clubs don't tend to defect upon the opening of the latest fashionable niterie. "Here we get real people as opposed to poseurs. It's like an extension of a public house with good food and entertainment and lots of live music. Our punters are of a mature mentality", he added and certainly, they're really aiming at the over 21's. And, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, they're pretty strict on dress. Jeans are allowed the rest of the week — but only "smart" ones.

They do plenty of extra business with exhibitions at the NEC. When we went downstairs in King Arthur's Court, they were letting their hair (or toupees) down at a medieval banquet. Here for £8 a head you get a four course meal with mead thrown in judging by the bawdiness of these affairs, the term is perhaps apposite). Not to mention minstrels, comedy, stocks and the chance to ogle the serving wenches. All in a setting that could have come out of an Errol Flynn movie. And, after, you get free entrance to the club itself.

Should your tastes in eating be less rumbustuous, try the Bistro instead. With its flagged stone floor, cane chairs and fresh flowers on the tables, its an attractive setting. The Bistro offers smallish, but interesting menu, that's not over-priced. They do special Christmas meals and lunches too.

Basic info

The Lock is open 9 - 2 (8 - 2 when exhibitions are on at The NEC). Membership is £15 a year, though if you join in summer it's £7.50 and down to £3.50 in the autumn. This entitles you to free entry and you can bring guests in too (between one and three depending on the day of the week). Plus reduced admission on Gala Nights and the facility to hire Martin's Room or the Venus Bar for parties.

It's a big yet somehow intimate place with plenty of crooks and nannies (sorry, nooks and cranies) to slope off too. The decor and idea of the club firmly bear Ian's individualistic stamp. So, if you fancy dressing up for a sophisticated night out, why not give it a whirl? Just remember though to turn the correct way when you leave — otherwise the term 'cut' could be very double-edged indeed!

CAMPUS

Davy James

No major tours visiting the college circuit apart from the Comsat Angels who play Warwick University on November 5th and North Staffs Poly (Stoke site) on the 31st.

Nine Below Zero play Leicester Poly, on November 1st following on their previous night's gig at Trent Poly.

Loughborough University have a meaty line-up for the month starting with John Martyn on the 1st, The Cure (12th), Captain Beefheart (15th) and Richard and Linda Thompson representing the finger-in-ear brigade on the 22nd.

Busiest University in the area must be Warwick University who have a veritable treasure-chest of talent to dazzle the mind. The Distractions (1st); Jake Thackeray, dry sarcasm and irresistible wit; (3rd); Roy Harper (6th); Stan Tracey (10th); Vision Collision, deservedly growing in popularity, (11th); Interaction Powerplays (13th); World Service (15th); Queen Ida and E.M.F. (20th); Real to Real (22nd); Hands-worth's prime reggae export Steel Pulse (27th); the Flat-backers pumping iron (29th).

Birmingham Poly are hosts to the Modettes at their Edgbaston site on the 14th and indulge in 'Beatlemania' at their Perry Barr site on the 28th.

Aston University in Gosta Green take on Girlschool in November, but the exact date was something of a mystery to the person on the other end of the phone when Brum Beat called them for info.

Coventry's Lanchester Poly have a quiet month with the Newmastics visiting on the 2nd and the Wild Boys on the 5th.

North Staffs Poly in Stoke look set for an excellent night on the 7th when the Au Pairs will grace the stage. One of the best bands around at the moment. Then on the 14th Night Doctor pay a call.

Trent Poly students are obviously into the newer generation of bands with New Music playing on the 11th and John Cooper Clarke whining away the time on November 28th.

Steel Pulse play their second college date of the month at Leicester Poly on the 29th. That's all for this month. Birmingham University didn't know what they had coming up. Wolverhampton likewise. Keale University near Stoke were equally on the ball. Hopefully more info will be forthcoming for the December issue and the end-of-term festivities.

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25th - OBEON, BIRMINGHAM
27th - HAMMERSMITH ODEON, LONDON
28th - HAMMERSMITH ODEON, LONDON

ALBUM NUMBER SHSP4115

REVIEWS

GIGS

LIMELIGHT

Bogarts, Birmingham

Limelight are a 3-piece band originating from Nottingham, comprising Mike Scrimshaw on double-neck guitar and lead vocals, brother Glen on lead and mellotron, and drummer Pat Colman who also contributes vocal harmonies.

This seemingly inexhaustible trio create a surprisingly full sound, and hindrances like a broken string did not deter them from powering their way through the set.

The audience was treated to fast-fingered guitar work and intricate drumming in cover versions of songs by Zeppelin, Lizzy and Hendrix. Their own material is by no means inferior. They produce rock music which is given fresh appeal by detailed songs with an aura of originality. The single 'Metal Man' is more inventive than the title suggests, and 'Man of Colours' a ballad which features mellotron and an excellent guitar break, uncovers the diversity of talents within the band.

Debbie Fussell

THE ARMY

Elmers, Aldridge

The Army as a Northampton 5-piece who play an intriguing (and effective) mix of very danceable ska/reggae with jazzy undertones.

They opened with a sax-ed up version of 'Apache' that featured some inventive work on drums by Coach, before going on to their own bouncy 'Responsibility' — minimal words this one, but great sound.

Their next number 'Advert Lies' featured some good attacking vocals and by now I was really liking this band. So too, judging by the applause and roars of approval, were the audience — although they hadn't got off their butts and the sides of the floor and started dancing.

'Education' had some good solid work on bass (Graham). 'Spiv' began with some meaty sax (Alex) and was wryly tongue in cheek. 'Middle Class Girl' had a jokey early 60's doo-wop feel to it — sorta gentle piss-take. 'What's Wrong With Me' I similarly noted as a stand out, 'Mr Average' too (this was the one that finally got them moving). Likewise 'Leg It' de-

serves a mention as does their single 'Shuffle, Shuffle' (which had a hint of The Beat about it). And the B-side 'Trendy' had the sort of lyrics that suggested Suggsy had been combining with Patrick Fitzgerald.

The Army had managed to change pace from the breakneck 90mph of 'Trouble In' (their own particular contribution to anti-*NF* feelings) to lazier reggae ('Alchemist') given nods towards the early 60's and even Latin American rhythms, blended in excellent jazz-influenced sax (and guitar), witty lyrics (Jono, lead vocals and guitar) and come up with some very good and enjoyable music that's just made for dancing.

Jule Wieland

THE ROGUES

Rotters Club Hereford

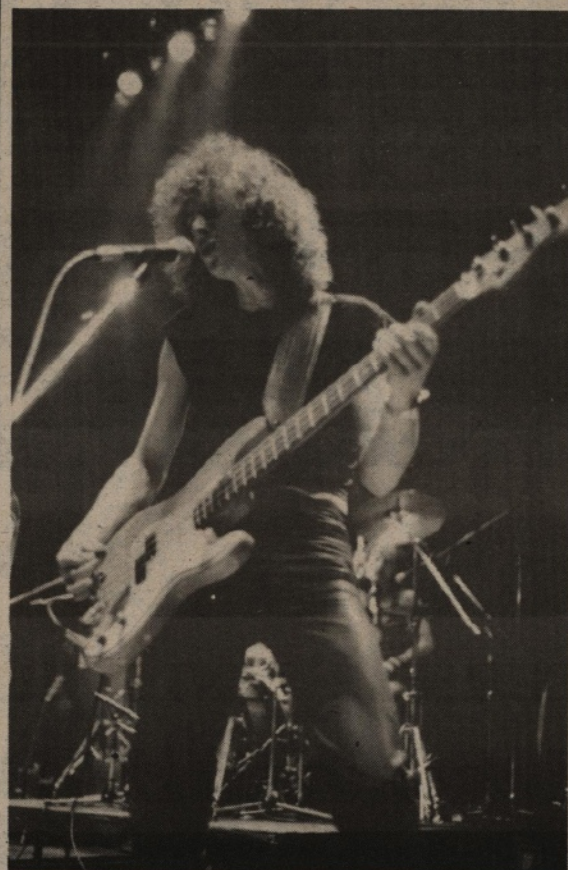
The "Rogues" started off a somewhat short but tight set with "Kids are Dancing" — a quick, lively number and a perfect choice to start the show, with Ian Morgan's really crisp drumming and an excellent sax line from Ricki Bloodworth. Susy Kim showed some fine vocal talent on "I Don't Mind" — a fast reggae/ska number similar to the Beat's "Tears of a Clown".

Mickey Hassett wasn't exactly messing about either, and it soon became apparent that he was quite useful when given a free hand on "A Touch of Class". He delivered his words not unlike Jo Jackson, although he still retained his own identity. He was well rewarded at the end.

By the far the best number, thanks to Bert Baylis (Bass) and Leo Lyons (Rhythm) was "London Town" — a slow but powerful song about the problems of leaving home to find fame in the big city. Surprisingly, they haven't considered it for the single, they should! It attracts one's ear instantly but doesn't sound commercial or sickly, combining a good vocal line with a strong melody.

It was a well balanced set, but I couldn't help wondering what image they're trying to project, it's a strange mixture. One minute they're U.B.40-ish — then it's Joe Jackson and then something different again. Maybe they are searching for that unique brand of music that is distinctly theirs and if so, then it's gonna be a long hard search.

S. Watkins



STARFIGHTERS

Pic: ANDY DENNIS

STARFIGHTERS

Railway Birmingham

This was the band's last gig before they joined the AC/DC tour as support. Watching them it's not hard to see why they got the slot.

Heavy rock played well is one of the most exciting forms of music alive in the world today. Starfighters don't just play well, they play superbly, generating enough energy to solve the world's power problems in one fell blow.

Vocalist Steve Burton is a superlative frontman, manipulating the audience with a deceptive ease and egging the rest of the band on to push the music out rather than just stand there and play. Not that they need much encouragement. Bassist Doug Dennis especially backs up Steve's efforts with gusto.

The bombarding beat never lets up and batters you into submission on such memorable tracks as 'Heaven and Hell' (their self-financed single).

Starfighters is a name to watch - they'll be flying high.

Steve Coxon

DURAN DURAN

Holy City Zoo Birmingham

Stuck with the label of sophisticated new musik, Duran Duran owe more to the glamrock era of the early Seventies than they do to the Numan clones of the early Eighties.

Drawing on basic poprock formulae, their music is not dominated by the synthesiser which is treated more as a regular instrument to be woven into the fabric of the band rather than the pattern around which the songs are constructed.

Which all sounds very complicated and daunting. It's not. Light-weight pop with a modern feel, they have most effect on commercial numbers such as their forthcoming single 'Planet Earth' or the hypnotic 'Late Bar'.

In all honesty, though, because their material is so flimsy their presentation of it needs to be strengthened if they are to make any lasting impression.

The intricate light show was all very commendable and pretty - but the band themselves were eclipsed by the display, thereby losing most of their power.

A few more live appearances for the sake of experience would not go amiss, methinks.

Steve Coxon

BRUM BEAT

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REVIEWS

ON RECORD

'Brum Beat — Live at the Barrel Organ!' (Big Bear) BRUM 1

Wrapped in a newspaper format gatefold sleeve, the Brum Beat album is a page from the journal of live music Birmingham. It features a cross-section of bands whose styles, although diverse, complement each other within the broad musical spectrum.

The production, as well as achieving clarity of sound, had captured the electric atmosphere of the Barrel Organ.

Opening up with 'The Lonely Ones' and 'Casablanca' from Bright Eyes, the two rock numbers are given a slight rock feel by the violin mastery provided by John Jones.

To avoid burdening Carol Decker of the Lazars with a list of comparable female vocalists, suffice it to say that she combines a rawness with quality phrasing to add the electric shock to the live wire treatment of 'Headache' and 'Rivet'.

On to Willy and the Poorboys. Billed as "the city's best blues band" they prove their worthiness of the title with the vigorous 'My Babe' and 'Hoy Hoy Hoy'.

Attractive in their simplicity, the Quads have an instantly recognisable guitar and vocal style as laid down on 'When Everything is Said and Done' and 'Wonders Never Cease' which kick off Side Two. The overall impression is of post-punk restraint.

A gentle soul-based number 'It Takes A Thief' is the contribution by Rockers. Vocal and keyboard melodies are brought to the fore to result in a song that lodges firmly in the memory.

Blast from the past in the shape of Speed Limit, a band sadly no longer in existence. Thankfully, their music is at least partially preserved here in their two tracks 'Alright on the Night' and 'CJ' which give a clue to their wide appeal on many musical levels. A commercial rock band oozing personality, particularly on 'CJ' which, as the perfect live song, was everybody's favourite.

Moving to Side Three with Dansette Damage. The core is modern rock, with the updating icing on the cake in the form of touches such as the tickling synthesiser on 'Invaders', preceded by 'All Little Girls Taste the Same'.

Without using the term in a derogatory way, Mayday are definitely a poprock band as evidenced by their bouncy 'Moving in Time' and 'Standing on the Edge of the World'.

The command to "Step Out" in 'Demolition' by Dangerous Girls is as incisive as the instantly assertive band themselves.

Similarly, there is nothing idle about the manner in which the Playthings' 'Sally Daydream' leaps in to complete Side Three.

The Police have sketched a pathway to the summit of the white reggae/rock mountain for more bands to follow. Opening Side Four, The Thrillers 'To the Top' and 'Breakout' illustrate their capacity to perform within this area — synthesiser adding further depth.

Nottingham's Spoonfull contribute two songs — 'Nine Till Five' and 'On Your Tail' which roars into HM gear that mellow almost imperceptibly into powerful R&B.

The albums rounded off with a velvet textured snippet of lithe Handsworth reggae from Eclipse. Their track 'enjoy Yourself' is a fitting note on which to end the whole, incredibly good extravaganza. *Debbie Fussell*

SPECIALS

Mose Specials: Two Tone CHR TT5003 UB40

Signing Off: Graduate GRADLP2

In different ways both these albums have been awaited with an electric air of expectation and tension. Could the Specials pull it off and survive the initial burst and could UB40 produce an album to match the rep the singles had so swiftly earned them. The answers in both cases is yes but it'll be down to the next release to see just where and if the cracks appear. The Specials appear to be aware of the future dangers and the air of lighthearted frivolity that opens the album with 'Enjoy Yourself' develops into a doomy, pessimistic outro of the same number. In between it's a very brave if occasionally artificial departure from the established sound of Two Tone and the first album.

'Hey, Little Rich Girl' sounds like a good bet for the second single with its infectious dance rhythms and usual Specials lyrical contrast to the music.

UB40's is a much more compact offering in terms of sound, it's immediately recognisable as the band it represents, that shimmering union of sax, guitar and keyboards with the vocals adding the gloss rather than the substance. It wouldn't be untrue to describe much of their work as instrumentals with words, although the lyrics and the vocal treatment they add are normally immaculate. Listen to the biting 'Burden of Shame' or 'Tyler' which opens the album for examples of how they use anger and commitment to a mature degree. I'm not knocked out by 25% but that's a quibble when you get such irresistible beauty as 'Adella'.

A superb album but now established with that sound UB40, like the Specials before them, are now going to have to think beyond it to survive and expand. *Mike Davies*

SINGLE FILE

Paul Bearer

Easily ahead of the pile must be The Soft Boys' 'I Wanna Destroy You' (Armageddon) which slightly nicks the Stones 'We Love You' but turns it into a pealer for 1980. Ace. Ditto for Bruce Cockburn's 'Rumours of Glory' (RCA) in which the Canadian folkie take on a wider market and looks set to break big next year. A masterly single.

Tom Robinson becomes more redundant with Sector 27's 'Invitation: What Have We Got To Lose?' (Panic) — judging by this not a lot! Missing Scientists harden up Dandy's 'Big City, Bright Lights' (Rough Trade) quite convincingly but it's not a killer. Purple Hearts turn to Safari with 'My Life's A Jigsaw' but there's far too many pieces missing. Fabulous Poodles slip slightly with 'Stompin' With The Cat' (Blueprint) which is bluesy but lacking in wit or weight. The Broughtons tart up an old folk trad-tune and call it 'Ancient Homeland' but record it under a mound of mud (Songwriters Workshop). Desperate Bicycles claim 'Grief Is Very Private' (Refill), like this record it's best kept that way. The Residents have to be joking calling it their 'Commercial Single' (PRE) but it's not funny and it's not very good either, although 'Amber' does have a touch of Eastern promise. Talking of which Bruce Kato sings 'You Can't Keep A Good Curry Down' (Alien) which is mildly amusing but lacks spice. GB Band ask 'When Will I Be Loved' (Magnet) but singing like this it's a pointless question. The Everly Bros live on with Rockpile and 'Teacher, Teacher' (F Beat) which sounds a monster hit with a country rock n roll swing... classic fun. Ronnie Bond takes off his jeans and unzips his 'Fly On The Wall' (Applause) which is moody rock disco stuff that sticks around in the brain cells awhile. Kim Goody could well have a hit with 'Wait In Line' (Bellaphon) which sounds like Rickie Lee Jones but with blood. Classix Nouveaux flip their single to feature instrumental '623' (Liberty) and deserve a measure of success. Nouveaux waveaux.

On the subject of which Fad Gadget go commercial with 'Fireside Favourite' (Mute), all nasty and shadowey but good listening. Moondogs take on the Undertones with 'Who's Gonna Tell Mary' (Real) but unless they get a good producer to give them that real edge Mary won't want to know. Good stuff from the Quick with 'Hip Shake Jerk' (Epic) which is infinitely better than other offerings. Sharp and slicing dance music. Sharp stuff too is 'Hot Spikes' (A&M) from Myofist, a Canadian heavy crew and this is skulls to the floor stuff. Fischer Z go hard too with an express train version of 'Limbo' (UA) that ought to bring wider success. Sweet Substitute tackle 'Take Me To The Mardi Gras' (Logo) but recorded it during siesta. The Chords keep hoping people will forget The Jam but 'In My Street' (Polydor) won't help the amnesia. The Invaders add girl vocals for 'Backstreet Romeo' (Polydor) and attack a new direction quite capably. More mellow and poppy but still not enough of the necessary. None of the necessary for Patrick D. Martin's 'Computer Datin' (Illegal) which is more nauseating cheerful cockney stuff... good media build-up not worth the effort. Lelo & the Levants turn in a creditable Roxy remake-remodel on 'All I Want' (Club) and manage to add an extra thickness to the carbon paper. Nice. Talking of duplicates The Walkie Talkies do a Police for 'Cover Up' (Rialto) which would have been OK if you didn't know the source. Buggles are back with a revamped 'Elstree' (Island) but it's not even a B movie job. Dead Kennedy's 'Kill The Poor' (Cherry Red) is another jolly ditty from the fun-loving Americans with some cheerful singalong lyrics... Newie from the Boys is 'Weekend' (Safari) but sadly the emphasis is on 'weak'. Same melancholy over second single from Modern Man, 'Body Music' (MAM) which is a blank ramble and nowhere near the status of 'All The Little Idiots'. Roy Wood produced P45's 'Right Direction' (Jet) but this bland pop should get it's cards. Woodie's back in his own right with Roy Wood's Helicopters on Cheapskate but no copies in yet. Factory finally release one of the classic singles of the 80's, Joy Division's 'Atmosphere' which defies superlatives. Emotional in an extreme. Tenpole Tudor rings up a hit with '3 Bells In A Row' (Stiff) which compensates for his Sex Pistols episodes in spades.

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Odeon: Sheena Easton, Gerrard
Kenny, Dennis Waterman
Digbeth Civic: Vision Collision, De-go-tees
Lyndon: State Express
Barrel Organ: Bright Eyes
COVENTRY
Westwood Country Club: Key West
WOLVERHAMPTON
Gifford Arms: U.X.B., Visit
Three Tuns: Sub Zero
KEELE
University: Weapons of Peace
DUDLEY
J.B.'s: Split Rivet
ALFRETON
George Hotel: Spoonfull
TAMWORTH
Chequers: Willy and the Poorboys
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: New England

SUNDAY 2nd
BIRMINGHAM
Barrel Organ: Ferrari
Maxwells Plum: Eagle Jazz Band
Railway: Them Moonlight Yard Jivers
Tyburn House: (Lunch) Ricky Barnes (Eve.) Bert & Les
Queens Head: Key West
Odeon: Battle of the Bands
Gladiator: Dijon
Star Club: De-go-tees, B.I.F.
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Victoria Hall: Orchestral Manouevres in the Dark
COVENTRY
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WOLVERHAMPTON
Lafayette: The Dance Band
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: The Vikings
MONDAY 3rd
BIRMINGHAM
Romeo and Juliets: Slender Thread
Barrel Organ: Mayday, Briton
Railway: Buckshee
Odeon: Joe Jackson Band
Kings Heath Red Lion: White River Band
Tyburn House: Rock & Roll Night
Mercat Cross: The Thrillers
Town Hall: Ralph McTell
SOLIHULL
The Viking: Key West
COVENTRY
The Venue: Swinging Cats
STRATFORD
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DERBY
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TUESDAY 4th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: State Express

WEDNESDAY 5th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Saracen
Hobmoor: Key West
Barrel Organ: Dansette Damage
Railway: Handsome Beasts
Tyburn House: Wishing Well
Odeon: B.A. Robertson
COVENTRY
Zodiac: Media
Polytechnic: Wild Boys
LEAMINGTON
The Crown: Kirk St, James Band
SHIFNAL:
The Star: Dangerous Girls
THURSDAY 6th
BIRMINGHAM
Shard End Harlequin: Country and Western Night
The Holte: Quill
Barrel Organ: Quads
Railway: Overdrive
G.E.C. Club Erdington: Key West
Odeon: U.B. 40
Golden Eagle: Wide Boys
Gladiator: Willy and the Poorboys
Barrel Organ: Quads
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Eamon Kelly, Disco
LEAMINGTON
The Crown: City Limits nee Paris
SHIFNAL
The Star: Visit
LYE
Bulls Head: Split Image
COVENTRY
Playhouse: Jon Anderson
WOLVERHAMPTON
Barley Mow: Sub Zero
FRIDAY 7th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: Sydewynder
Holte: Atlantis
Barrel Organ: Willy and the Poorboys
Railway: New England
Odeon: Tangerine Dream
Tyburn House: Sly Move
Cedar: Splodgenessabounds
Town Hall: The Spinners
SHIFNAL
The Star: Fear of Flying
WISHAW
Triple Horseshoes Farm: Key West, Suppt.
KNIGHTON
Norton Arms: Ferrari
WORDSLEY

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Maxwells Plum: Kaya
Railway: Enigma
Tyburn House: Country and Western Night
Odeon: Cheap Trick
Mr. Sams: Ad Lib, Fade
Erdington Queens Head: The Country Travellers
Barrel Organ: RAH
LEAMINGTON
The Crown: Reviews
STOKE
Victoria Hall: Girls School
LEICESTER
University: B.A. Robertson
COVENTRY
Zodiac: Bright Eyes
WEDNESDAY 5th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Saracen
Hobmoor: Key West
Barrel Organ: Dansette Damage
Railway: Handsome Beasts
Tyburn House: Wishing Well
Odeon: B.A. Robertson
COVENTRY
Zodiac: Media
Polytechnic: Wild Boys
LEAMINGTON
The Crown: Kirk St, James Band
SHIFNAL:
The Star: Dangerous Girls
THURSDAY 6th
BIRMINGHAM
Shard End Harlequin: Country and Western Night
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Barrel Organ: Quads
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Golden Eagle: Wide Boys
Gladiator: Willy and the Poorboys
Barrel Organ: Quads
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The Clock: Eamon Kelly, Disco
LEAMINGTON
The Crown: City Limits nee Paris
SHIFNAL
The Star: Visit
LYE
Bulls Head: Split Image
COVENTRY
Playhouse: Jon Anderson
WOLVERHAMPTON
Barley Mow: Sub Zero
FRIDAY 7th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: Sydewynder
Holte: Atlantis
Barrel Organ: Willy and the Poorboys
Railway: New England
Odeon: Tangerine Dream
Tyburn House: Sly Move
Cedar: Splodgenessabounds
Town Hall: The Spinners
SHIFNAL
The Star: Fear of Flying
WISHAW
Triple Horseshoes Farm: Key West, Suppt.
KNIGHTON
Norton Arms: Ferrari
WORDSLEY

SATURDAY 8th
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: U.B. 40
Cedar Club: Monochrome Set
Tyburn House: Bert and Les
The Lyndon: Ken Harris and the Playboys
Railway: The Dealers
Barrel Organ: Bright Eyes
TIPTON
Brewer Baker: Key West
WORCESTER
Kings Head: U.X.B
COVENTRY
Polytechnic: Wah! Heat
WOLVERHAMPTON
Gifford Arms: Switch 7
DUDLEY
J.B.'s: The Sectors
STRATFORD
Green Dragon: Helpless Huw and the Hesitations, Aston Hall and Servants Quarter
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Wide Boys
NOTTINGHAM
Boat Club: Budgie
SHIFNAL
The Star: The Grids
SUNDAY 9th
BIRMINGHAM
Barrel Organ: Ferrari
Maxwells Plum: Alto Ego
Railway: Them Moonlight
Yard Jivers
Odeon: Sad Cafe
Erdington Queens Head: Key West
Tyburn House: (lunch) Ricky Barnes, (Eve.) Bert & Les
Gladiator: Highway
Eagle & Tun: Missing Persons
Night Out: David Essex
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Music Night
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Andy Lloyd and the Wedge
WOLVERHAMPTON
Lafayette: The Magnificent Seven
Civic Hall: Orchestral Manouevres in the Dark
LEICESTER
Croft Club: White River Band
STAFFORD
Bingley Hall: Don Williams, Raymond Frogatt
CANNOCK
Moonraker: Sub Zero
MONDAY 10th
BIRMINGHAM
Romeo an Juliets: Withered Man
Railway: Buckshee
Odeon: Elkie Brooks
Tyburn House: Rock & Roll Night
COVENTRY
The Venue: The M.P.s
SOLIHULL
The Viking: The Ramrods
TUESDAY 11th

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BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: White River Band
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Railway: Enigma
Tyburn House: Country and Western Night
Mr. Sams: Ad Lib & Fade
Erdington Queens Head: Country Travellers
Barrel Organ: RAH
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Spoils of War
WARWICK
University: Vision Collision
SMETHWICK
The Windsor Club: Steve King Big Band
WEDNESDAY 12th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Saracen
Hobmoor: Wheels
Railway: Handsome Beasts
Tyburn House: Bert and Les
Odeon: Weather Report
RUBERY
The Dingle: White River Band
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Satva
COVENTRY
General Wolfe: Wasted Youth
THURSDAY 13th
BIRMINGHAM
Shard End Harlequin: Country and Western Night
The Holte: Quill
Railway: Overdrive
Odeon: Triumph, Preying Mantis, Dedringer
Golden Eagle: Au Pairs
Cedar Club: Teardrop Explodes
Lanchester Polytechnic: Vision Collision, De-go-tees
Barrel Organ: Quads
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: The Thrillers
SHIFNAL
The Star: Wild Boys
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Eamon Kelly, Disco
BURNTWOOD
The Troubadour: Doctor Max
SOLIHULL
Civic Hall: Pop Concert
WILLENHALL
Cavalcade: Sub Zero
FRIDAY 14th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: Wild Silk
The Holte: Atlantis
Barrel Organ: Willy and the Poorboys
Railway: Them Moonlight
Yard Jivers
Tyburn House: Calico Blue
Golden Eagle: Au Pairs
Odeon: Chris De Burgh
Polytechnic: Vision Collision
Cedar Club: The Ruts
Top Rank: Eclipse, Unity, Senator
SHIFNAL
The Star: The Buzz
BURTON ON TRENT
76 Club: Little Rooster
BARWELL
Liberal Club: White River Band
DERBY
Assembly Rooms: Tangerine Dream
MATLOCK
Pavillion: Limelight
WOLVERHAMPTON
Gifford Arms: Tall Story
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Paradox
SATURDAY 15th
BIRMINGHAM
Barrel Organ: Bright Eyes
Railway: The Dealers
Tyburn House: Bert & Les
The Lyndon: Country Travellers
Parkinson Cowan Stetchford: Key West
Odeon: Barbara Dickson
Cedar Club: Dance, The Underworld
Digbeth Civic: Quartz
Hobmoor: Midwest County
Bournbrook: Privates, The Evereadies
SHIFNAL
The Star: Denizens, Crosswords
DUDLEY
J.B.'s: Little Rooster

COVENTRY
General Wolfe: The Mix, The Editors
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Ferrari
RUBERY
Rose and Crown: White River Band
LEICESTER
De Montfort Hall: Jon Anderson
WOLVERHAMPTON
Gifford Arms: Doctor Max
SUNDAY 16th
BIRMINGHAM
Barrel Organ: Ferrari
Odeon: Dexys Midnight Runners
Maxwells Plum: Alto Ego
Railway: Them Moonlight
Yard Jivers
Tyburn House: (Lunch) Ricky Barnes, (Eve.) Bert and Les
Erdington Queens Head: Key West
Gladiator: Willy and the Poorboys
Eagle & Tun: Missing Persons
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Sub Zero
RUBERY
Rose and Crown: White River Band
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Music Night
MONDAY 17th
BIRMINGHAM
Romeo and Juliets: Chinatown
Railway: Buckshee
Tyburn House: Rock & Roll Night
COVENTRY
General Wolfe: Team 23
White Swan: Hells Bells
SOLIHULL
The Viking: Cotton Gin
TUESDAY 18th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: Patsy Powell and the Goodtimers
Maxwells Plum: Kaya
Railway: Enigma
Tyburn House: Country and Western Night
Odeon: Orchestral Manouvres in the Dark
Mr. Sams: Ad Lib, Fade
Erdington Queens Head: Country Travellers
Barrel Organ: RAH
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: The M.P.s
COVENTRY
Zodiac: Aorta Major
White Swan: Evil Genius
STOKE
Victoria Hall: Uriah Heep, Samson, Spider
WEDNESDAY 19th
BIRMINGHAM
Hobmoor: White River Band
The Holte: Saracen
Tyburn House: Burgundy
Railway: Handsome Beasts
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: The Hawks
DERBY
The Blue Note Club: The Fall
COVENTRY
White Swan: Shots
SHIFNAL
The Star: British Steel
THURSDAY 20th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Quill
Shard End Harlequin: Country and Western Night
Railway: Overdrive
Cedar Club: The Fall
Barrel Organ: Quads
SHIFNAL
The Star: Emotion Pictures
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Chainsaw, Arc
COVENTRY
Polytechnic: Misty
General Wolfe: Vision Collision
White Swan: Drive
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Eamon Kelly, Disco
WOLVERHAMPTON
The Barley Mow: Doctor Max
DERBY
Kings Hall: Uriah Heep, Samson Spider

FRIDAY 21st
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: Showaddywaddy
Hobmoor: Chug-a-lug
Barrel Organ: Willy and the Poorboys
Cedar Club: Wasted Youth
Railway: New England
Tyburn House: Sound Advice
Top Rank: Black Slate
DUDLEY
J.B.'s: Trimmer and Jenkins
BURTON
76 Club: Fist
WISHAW
Triple Horseshoes Farm: Country and Western (2 live bands)
WOLVERHAMPTON
Civic Hall: Uriah Heep, Samson Spider
Gifford Arms: Close Rivals
SOLIHULL
Sixth Form College: Weapons of Peace
SHIFNAL
The Star: Panther 45
SATURDAY 22nd
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: Motorhead
Barrel Organ: Bright Eues
Cedar Club: Fad Gadget, Helpless Huw & The Hesitations
Hobmoor: Key West
Railway: The Dealers
Tyburn House: Bert & Les
Lyndon: Hamilton, Clayton & Power
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: U.X.B.
DUDLEY
J.B.'s: Wasted Youth
COVENTRY
Polytechnic: Pink P
DROITWICH
Star & Wagon: White River Band
STOURBRIDGE
Norton Church Hall: Split Image
STRATFORD
Green Dragon: Sub Zero
SUNDAY 23rd
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: Motorhead
Maxwells Plum: Alto Ego
Railway: Them Moonlight
Yard Jivers
Tyburn House: (Lunch) Ricky Barnes (Eve.) Bert & Les
Barrel Organ: Ferrari
Erdington Queens Head: Key West
Star Club: Vision Collision
Eagle & Tun: Missing Persons
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: New England
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Music Night
KENILWORTH
Working Mens Club: Paradox
MONDAY 24th
BIRMINGHAM
Romeo and Juliets: Split Image
Railway: Buckshee
Tyburn House: Rock & Roll Night
SOLIHULL
The Viking: Chug-a-Lug
COVENTRY
The Venue: Wild Boys, Protege
TUESDAY 25th
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: Hot Chocolate
Maxwells Plum: Kaya
Railway: Enigma
Tyburn House: Country and Western Night
Hobmoor: Cotton Gin
Mr. Sams: Ad Lib, Fade
Erdington Queens Head: Country Travellers
Barrel Organ: RAH
COVENTRY
The Zodiac: Strontium Dog
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Assyne
STRATFORD
Green Dragon: Don Lusher
WEDNESDAY 26th
BIRMINGHAM
Railway: Handsome Beasts

Tyburn House: Dragonfly
The Holte: Saracen
Hobmoor: White River Band
Odeon: Iron Maide
COVENTRY
The Zodiac: Evil Genius
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Sahke
OXFORD
New Theatre: Uriah Heep, Samson, Spider
THURSDAY 27th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Quill
Railway: Overdrive
Shard End Harlequin: Country and Western Night
Cedar Club: The Dealers
Odeon: Hazel O'Connor
Barrel Organ: Quads
SHIFNAL
The Star: Close Rivals
LEAMINGTON SPA
The Crown: Aorta Major
LEICESTER
Carlton Hale Hospital: White River Band
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Eamin Kelly, Disco
FRIDAY 28th
BIRMINGHAM
The Holte: Atlantis
Odeon: Max Boyce
Railway: New England
Cedar Club: Martian Dance
Hobmoor: Shoestring
Barrel Organ: Willy and the Poorboys
Tyburn House: City Limits
SHIFNAL
The Star: Rough Mix
BURTON ON TRENT
76 Club: Vardis
DERBY
Ajanta Club: Aswad
Blue Note Club: Wasted Youth
STOKE
Victoria Hall: Iron Maiden
SATURDAY 29th
BIRMINGHAM
Odeon: Max Boyce
Cedar Club: The Expertz
Tyburn House: Bert and Les
The Lyndon: Jess and Geoff
Barrel Organ: Bright Eyes
Hobmoor: Palladin
Railway: The Dealers
BLACKHEATH
The Fourways: White River Band
COVENTRY
Polytechnic: The Accelerators, Silence
WOLVERHAMPTON
Gifford Arms: Hamburger Mary
EVESHAM
Public Hall: Paralex, Wrathchild
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: The Magnificent Seven
NORTHAMPTON
Cricket Club: Budgie
SHIFNAL
The Star: The Stains, In the Gym
SUNDAY 30th
BIRMINGHAM
Tyburn House: (lunch) Ricky Barnes (Eve.) Bert & Les
Maxwells Plum: Alto Ego
Barrel Organ: Ferrari
Railway: Them Moonlight
Yard Jivers
Eagle & Tun: Missing Persons
BICKENHILL
The Clock: Music Night
WEST BROMWICH
Coach and Horses: Willy and the Poorboys.
STOP PRESS
Cedar Club
7th Splodgenessabounds; 8th Monochrome Set; 13th Teardrop Explodes; 14th The Quads; 15th Dance; 20th The Fall; 21st Wasted Youth; 22nd Fab Gadget; 24th Robert Fripp; 27th The Thrillers; 29th Xperts.
8th **BIRMINGHAM** Aero Club: Thrillers.

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22 - SWINDON LEISURE CENTRE
23 - CHELMSFORD ODEON
24 - HEMEL HEMPSTEAD PAVILION
25 - WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC
26 - CARDIFF SOFIA GARDENS
27 - SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
28 - SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
29 - BRADFORD PRINCE GEORGES HALL
30 - BLACKBURN KING GEORGES HALL

DECEMBER

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2 - LIVERPOOL EMPIRE
3 - BRISTOL COLSTON HALL
4 - LEICESTER DEMONFORT HALL
5 - COVENTRY NEW THEATRE
6 - OXFORD NEW THEATRE
7 - IPSWICH GAUMONT
8 - SOUTHAMPTON GAUMONT
9 - DERBY ASSEMBLY ROOMS
11 - MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL
13 - EDINBURGH ODEON
14 - GLASGOW APOLLO
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Lifetime Birmingham City supporter Josh Jones of The Quads reported beating his feet on the pavements of Acocks Green at unspeakable hours of the morning in a valiant effort to attain fitness since his selection to play for the Pebble Mill Pirates team alongside Derek Dougan, Ron Atkinson, Jim Smith et al against the Radio One team on the hallowed turf of St. Andrews. Note to Brian Clough — Big Bear Records are open to offers of £750,000 and over for this dynamic two-footed midfield player who is clearly the solution of Forest's current problems... Duran Duran guiding light M. Paul Berrows reportedly dug deep into his piggy bank to secure a support slot for his protege on the Hazel O'Connor tour. Brum Beat also impressed by the turnout of A&G folk at DD's recent Zoo gig, but will be surprised if any of them cough up the sort of dough Mr. Berrows consider the band is worth. It would be nice — though not unusual — to be proved wrong!... The city is certain to be packed with London's record company pluggers during November's first week as they will inevitably follow close on the heels of Radio One's jox and producers who are presenting their shows from Birmingham at that time. Anyone who can do a passable imitation of Peter Powell should find himself wined and dined for the week whilst the genuine article will probably retreat to the peace and quiet of his family home in Stourbridge to get away from it all... Jazzophiles are in for a couple of unexpected treats this month with city appearances by 2 totally unknown but amazingly good bands. Look out for the staggeringly good Flemish gypsy band WASO at the Waterworks Jazz club (15th) and Bob Barnard's Australian Jazz Band at the Strathallen (2nd) — a

...and lastly

Dixieland band who play the style like they invented it... It's now confirmed that Bill Ward has finally left Sabbath mid-tour USA. Also re-married, so we hear... Much disappointment within the record industry at the BPI report on hyping — which openly admitted that fraudulent chart fixing had taken place and that WEA were not alone amongst the majors in corrupting the charts. Unfortunately they neglected to name names, saying only that they would strongly draw the attention of their members to the Code of Conduct which the companies have already signed and presumably are already aware of. The only constructive decision is to establish a Freephone service to enable irregularities to be reported directly to the BPI. The problem is that those who perpetrate the frauds or benefit from them are not likely to blow the whistle on themselves and they take every precaution to keep their activities secret. Not quite a whitewash, but almost. Encouraging to hear that Riva Records have actually stood up to be counted by resigning from the BPI and attempting to persuade Virgin, Charisma and Island to do likewise... It is reliably reported that Outlaw Studios supreme Phil Savage has been sighted actually purchasing a 16 track machine for his city studio — surprisingly no price increases envisaged. Hope we get invited to the launch party... The more

eagle-eyed among you will have noted the message inscribed on the run-out of Side 2 of the Live At The Barrel Organ album — most prophetic... Gary and Dave of Musical Exchanges displayed highly questionable talents when Brum Beat's John Tully locked himself out of his own car — it took them all of two minutes to break in... What have we done to offend the N.M.E.? In their last issue they petulantly describe 'Brum Beat' as "a musical version of the Sun with leering Groupie of the Month photos feebly asserting that there was a coherent local scene of which they were a part and trying to cash in with a free paper". Quite how one "cashes in" with a FREE paper frankly eludes us, but we would point out that our "Groupie" caption has not been used since May — and we are surprised that N.M.E. find out continued use of skipfiz objectionable as they are leaders in that very field. At least Brum Beat comes 25p cheaper than N.M.E. and encounters no problems in placing 40,000 copies a month. Their claim to have "more than a little contact with local music" before stating that the Barrel Organ is a "faded cabaret pub that has taken no part in the present revival of local music" is patently ludicrous. N.M.E. Reviews Editor Tony Stewart informed us that he had been bombarded with fervently anti-Brum Beat missives from Sheryl Garratt, so quite why he gave her the Brum Beat album to review cannot image. One would think that the N.M.E. would prefer to carry objective — not to mention accurate — reviews.

AU PAIR of the MONTH

Fearless and indefatigable in its attempts to roam the globe in search of excuses BRUM BEAT introduces 'Au Pair of the Month'.

In search of interesting foreign parts, our intrepid hacks got as far as a side entrance to the Birmingham Top Rank and hit upon SUZAN PALMER.

Although neither an au pair nor a foreigner, Suzan, from the Birmingham Model Agency, has a couple of exotic ambitions to fully recommend her inclusion here:

1. She'd like to go deep-sea diving with Cyril Smith!
Question: Why?

2. She fancies parachuting without any *****!

Question: Any what?

BRUM BEAT will send a surprise gift to the first 6 readers sending the correct two answers.

Picture: Beryl Parrott



SMALLS

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Thursdays: QUADS
Fridays: WILLY & THE POORBOYS
Saturdays: BRIGHT EYES
Sundays: FERRARI

Plus supports

Hot food available lunchtime and evenings.

LIVE MUSIC SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK!
HIGH ST. DIGBETH