

BRUM BEAT

THE MUSIC MAG OF THE MIDLANDS

NUMBER SIXTEEN

JUNE 1981

INSIDE
YOUR FREE BRUM BEAT!

MIDLAND FESTIVAL BLITZ PAGE 3

REVIEWS — GIG GUIDE —

FOLK, JAZZ AND PHOTO-FILE

DH to TOUR

Diamond Head take another step up the ladder to success this month with the launch of their own headlining national tour.

Midland dates are Walsall Town Hall (June 19th), Stourbridge Town

Hall (24th), and Hanely Victoria Hall (25th).

A 12 inch EP titled 'Diamond Lights' will be available to coincide with the tour.

Support will be Silverwing, from Congleton near Stoke.

Stafford Bands On Top of the World

An ambitious new venture in Stafford kicks off on July 6th when local promoter ex-Birmingham Poly student Deryck Wilson promotes 3 Midland bands at the town's cavernous Top of the World ballroom.

The featured bands are Northampton's Religious Overdose, plus local heroes Massif Iddition and the Monthless Dead.

Deryck feels that "despite a large and active element in the area, local bands have never really struggled to get a foothold and provide regular entertainment.

This is what we are now trying to organise."

Let's hope this provides the town with the decent-sized live rock venue it should never have been without.

Beacon Drop Rock Spot
Beacon Radio have dropped their 'Rock Hard' Saturday night show presented by Mick Wright and Mike Davies replacing it with a 3-hour easy listening show called 'Beautiful Music'. This leaves the station totally devoid of a rock show - a situation we all hope will be quickly resolved.

Fourth Time Lucky



Fashion Sign Major Deal

by STEVE COXON

After several months of contractual problems, Birmingham band Fashion are about to finalise a five year recording deal with Arista Records.

Dave Corke, Fashion's manager said: "There were five or six companies interested, but Arista came across as the most positive of them."

The band will be headlining an open-air fashion spectacular at Birmingham's Botanical Gardens on July 4th which is likely to be their only British date for the rest of the year. Also appearing will be Ronny (from London), and Torso a dance troupe.

They are currently in rehearsal for the show although they may also be going into the studios to start recording for their first Arista single which is likely to be released in August or September with an album to follow in the Autumn.

British dates for the band (apart from the Botanical Gardens) are unlikely until next year because of

recording commitments and a short tour of the States due to take place in September.

The line-up of the band is now settled following several re-shuffles after the departure last year of original vocalist Luke Skywalker.

Fashion are: Marlon Recchi (bass), Dee (guitar/vocals), Mulligan (keyboards), and Dik (drums).

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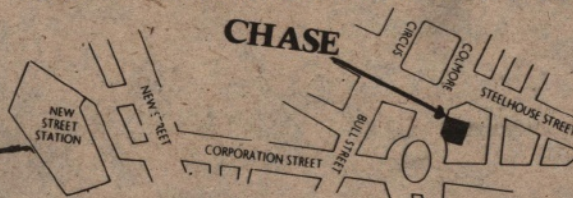
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12 **ROXXE**

19 **TALL STORY**

26 **KRAKEN**

July 3 **NIGHTSTALKERS**

10 **ALIBI**

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GIRLS £500 BEANO

In aid of the Patsy Bégg's Campaign, 'The Girls at Beanos' raised more than £500 with two sell-out evenings where food, exotic fashions and music were the attractions.

The music was provided by Chris Garbo, the clothes by Lady of Paris, and the girls by the Julia Rose agency. Pictured handing over the cheque to Patsy are Mary, Lyn, Lee, Jayne, Jackie, Kim and Beverley.



Captured last month, one Jim Cleary fronting his new electric line-up at Cannon Hill's open air arena. Old mate Bob Lamb guested on mixing and it's interesting to note that Cleary's excellent new demo tape was steered through production by Dave Carroll. The Steve Gibbons' Old Boys Network has certainly sprouted. The sampler cassette is currently doing the rounds and if someone shows a little sense it should soon provoke a deal for the Irishman who brought Brum such modern classics as 'Shamrock And Roll'.
 John Adam



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MIDLAND FESTIVAL BLITZ

3 major festivals on your doorstep!

The support acts for the UB40 extravaganza at Walsall Football Club June 13th have now been finalised. In addition to Toots and the Maytals you can hear Gang of Four, Pauline Murray & The Invisible Girls, Black Mt Co-op and Radio 1's John Peel who is apparently being lured there under the pretext of it being a football match. Manager Alan Buckley has been issued with a "hands off Astro" warning as he seeks to strengthen his team in preparation for next season's relegation battle.

Metal Mayhem hits the Potteries on August 1st when Black Sabbath and Mötley Crüe share the headlining spot at a major festival in Port Vale football ground, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent.

Going under the banner of Heavy Metal Holocaust the show will also feature three other major names (including a top American act).

The announcement of the Festival means that there are now three heavy rock events planned for August, with Thin Lizzy at Milton Keynes (August 8th), and AC/DC, Blue Oyster Cult and Whitesnake.

at Castle Donington Monsters of Rock Festival (August 22nd) - all taking place in the Midlands.

Promoters Straight Music and Camouflage Ltd. expect a crowd of at least 35,000 for the Port Vale festival. The ground itself has an area second only to Wembley Stadium in size.

A continuous bus shuttle will be running between Stoke railway station and Vale Park.

Tickets are priced at £7.50 in advance and £8.50 on the day with the music continuing from 1.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.



After much speculation Whitesnake have been added as second on the bill of the Midlands' Castle Donington Monsters of Rock Festival on August 22nd.

The bands now line up as AC/DC, Whitesnake, Blue Oyster Cult, Slade, and Blackfoot.

Whitesnake are concluding their sell-out UK tour and are set to depart on a 3-month US schlap which they will be interrupting especially to appear at Donington.

This should be the last chance for English fans to see the band for at least a year.

Tickets are available in advance at £8.50 or on the day at £10

SHORT CUTS

June Dealers

The Dealers kick off their Flaming June tour at Birmingham Kingshurst (4th), Birmingham Railway (6th), Birmingham Hall Green Sherwood (8th), Liverpool C.F. Mott College (12th), Birmingham Railway (13th), Stourbridge McCoys (17th), Pershore College of Agriculture (25th), Birmingham Kings Heath Billesley (29th). The Railway gig on the 13th is the band's last gig at the venue where they have held residency for over 18 months.

Handsome Beasts

Birmingham heavies the Handsome Beasts end their residency at the Railway this month to concentrate on writing and recording. The band are featured on a Radio One session to be broadcast shortly and have a single 'Local Heroes' released on Heavy Metal Records.

Crazy Studio

Hednesford-based Crazy Plane Records expand at the end of this month with the opening of a new 16-track studio. The label have also just released 'Once In A Blue Moon' by Subita which is described as "reggae, Indian style".

Paradox Resident

Having just completed a tour as support to Glen Campbell, Birmingham band Paradox start two residencies this month at the Railway (Tuesdays), and the Sherwood (Saturdays).

Arc Remain

Contrary to rumours currently doing the circuit, Kidderminster band Arc have not split up. They are continuing to work following the departure of bassist Steve Slater and rhythm guitarist Dennis Pasciewicz who have left to form another band. The new line-up now reads: Steve Potter (bass), Phil Lynch (2nd lead guitar), who join original members Geoff Whitbread (lead guitar). The band plan to re-record their 'Tribute (to Mike Hailwood)'/'Stagequake' single for Vulcan promotions. The single

Quads March Home!

Birmingham group the Quads, recently returned to their hometown after a month spent marching - and playing - on the Peoples March for Jobs.

The Acocks Green band joined the march in Liverpool on May 1st and walked the whole way to London.

On the route they played a total of 16 benefit gigs for the March including the Rock for Jobs Carnival in London's Brockwell Park on May 30th with Pete Townshend, Aswad, the Members, and Ritchie Havens, among others.

Their current single 'Gotta Getta Job' on the Birmingham independent label Big Bear Records was adopted as the theme of the Peoples March

and is hovering on the edge of the national independent charts.

June dates for the group are: Birmingham University - supporting Joe Jackson - (12th), Worcestershire College Hereford (13th), Birmingham Kings Heath Billesley (15th), Coventry General Wolfe (18th), Dorset Institute of Higher Education (20th), Birmingham Moseley Fighting Cocks (25th), Cannock Park (July 4th), and Worcester Anti-Nuclear Festival (18th) - with Weapon of Peace. More dates are being confirmed.

was originally released in 1980 on the band's Orcrest label.

Vocalist Wanted

DEDRINGER, the heavy rock band from Leeds are on the lookout for a new vocalist. The band who have built up a strong following around the club circuit have, sadly, parted company with their vocalist Johnny Hoyle who has left to 'do his own thing'.

If there are any budding vocalists who think they would make a good frontman for a rock band, here's a golden opportunity to test their talents. They should call the band's manager, Des Frazer on 0274 875 268 and he will be able to arrange an audition for them.

Dedringer have recently released a double-pack single on Dindisc titled 'Maxine' and prior to that their debut album, 'Direct Line'. They undertook a headlining tour earlier this year to promote the album and were subsequently invited as guest artists on the UK leg of the Gillan tour. Plans are in hand for further recording and touring so the future vocalist can look forward to a full schedule.

2nd City Find Lost Cause

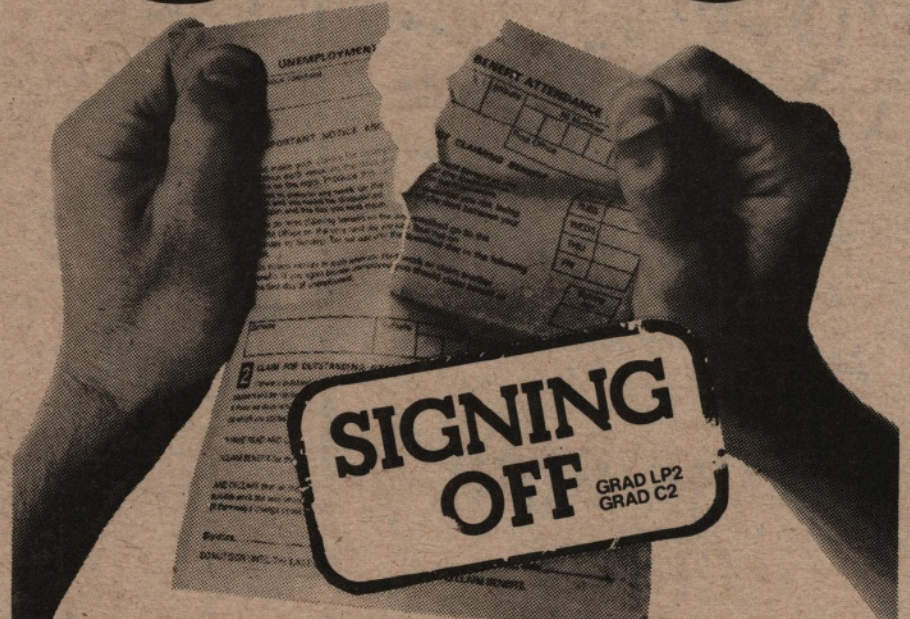
Moseley band Lost Cause have been contracted by the Second City Theatre Company for a 7 week schlap through the Midlands despite reportedly fierce competition from several other bands. The band have also obtained the services of one Louis Charles who now manages the band and tells us that the band's sound is distinctive "in that the drums and bass are played in reggae fashion whilst everything else is new wave". He also reports that the line-up is guitar, bass, synthesiser, drums, and that the band members are each 17 years old.

Stoke-on-Trent band Demon have their first single released on June 5th on Clay/Carrere Records 'Ride the Wind' (CAR 185) will be followed by the release on July 5th of their album 'Night of the Demon' (CAL 126).

"The band are a bit of a mystery," says Clay label boss Mike Stone. "They came to me with a demo tape and we recorded the master tapes for the records. Then, after we signed the contract which finalised the licensing deal with Carrere at the beginning of May, they disappeared. I haven't seen them at all."

Any information should be forwarded to Mike Stone at his shop in Hope St., Hanley.

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SHORT CUTS

Axe Victim

Axe Victim come from Pershore, Worcestershire and are David Charles (guitar and vocals), Pete Langston (bass), and Andre Bayliss (drums and backing vocals). The line-up has been in existence for 12 months and they have recently recorded a tape for sale at gigs. Axe Victim can be heard at Warwick Red Lion (June 5th), Stratford Green Dragon (20th), Malvern Phoenix Club (30th), Leamington Crown (July 1st), and Hereford Market Tavern (18th).

Plaything Battered

Matt Smith (aka Valentine) bassist with the Playthings bravely carried on during the band's set at Coventry's Venue last month despite falling over and knocking himself unconscious half-way through the band's 'Broken Down' number. He fractured his skull but still woke up playing the same riff (even though by then the band had gone onto a different number).

Energised Energy

Leicester's Tony Shelley enthuses over the city's Energy who are currently working on an album to follow their 'Energised' EP which made the HM charts last summer. They are playing the Braunstone Club (June 6th) and the Windmill (9th) - both Leicester venues.

Babylon Rebel

Babylon Rebels - one of the Midlands most exciting live acts and now (as they say) under new management have been at Phil Savage's 16-track Outlaw Studios this month recording demos. Tracks are 'Hard Time Dub', 'Babylon Wall' (surely the obvious choice for a single) and 'You (Slavin)'. Reports that the band were very unhappy with their earlier session at another local studio seem to be confirmed by the news that the band paid for the session and promptly wiped the master tape.

Starbeam Squires

The Roger Squires Company who recently opened their Birmingham shop have just launched the Starbeam 250 featuring an accessory socket which allows for effects wheels and cassettes to be mounted in the projection bay. A whole range of accessories are available which mean, for instance, that instead of spending in excess of £1000 on a theatrical follow spot a DJ can get the same effect for a mere £15.95.



two of a kind

Dark Star and Chevy, two of the Midlands best-known and hard-working rock groups play the Barrel Organ on Saturday June 13th in a benefit gig for the Save Sheila Fund.

The Fund was set up to help pay for treatment of former New Picketty-witch vocalist Sheila Rossall, the

girl who is "allergic to the 20th century".

The bands hope to raise £500 for the fund which needs £1,000 a week to pay for Sheila's treatment in a specialist hospital in Dallas, Texas.

The evening is being sponsored by the bands' record company Avatar Records.

Both Dark Star and Chevy currently have albums on release titled 'Dark Star' and 'The Taker'.

Birmingham group Orphan were also originally to play the concert but had to pull out at the last moment due to unforeseen circumstances.

Orphan have already raised £125 for the Fund at a previous benefit gig at the Barrel Organ.

Acoustic Blues

Moseley has a new Sunday night guitar club. Based at the Trafalgar on Trafalgar Road, Acoustic Blues features just that - blues based acoustic music every Sunday.

Number One Wolfe

The General Wolfe - probably Coventry's numero uno rockspot - has an interesting programme set with Alibi (June 10th), Shaper (11th), Chevy (12th), I (13th), The Quads (18th), Channel A (19th), Modern English (20th), More (25th), The DTs (26th), Scars (27th), Musical Youth (July 2nd), The Byron Band featuring ex-Uriah Heepist Dave Byron (3rd).

Dansette Swing

In the unlikely event that you don't already know, please note that Brum band Dansette Damage have undergone a name-change. They are henceforth to be known as Swing and are currently mixing and editing demos to offer the record moguls. Alan Gibson from Faces niterie has heard the tapes and reckons them hotter than hot.

Heaps of news this time so kicking off with singles headed up by Stoke's **Demon** "Ride The Wind" (Carere) which is good melodic hard-rock that deserves better exposure. **The Bureau's** "Let Him Have It" (WEA) isn't as strong as "Sheep" but marks them out as a true talent for a lost market.

Heavy again from **Demolition's** "Axe Attack" (Demolition) which pounds along at a rare lick with no punches pulled and bodes well for polishing up. 021 are back in action with **Musical Youth's** "Political" which is sparkling performance from 11yr musicians but I'm not sure I can relate to juniors singing about not having jobs. Same label have **Tarzan 5**, "Boys Game" which sounds not unlike Girls At Our Best but without the production benefits. **Cuddly Toys** appear again with "Someone's Crying" (Fresh) that is vaguely futuristic but lacking in substantial appeal.

Lieutenant Pigeon also resurface with music hall type number "Bobbing Up & Down Like This" (Shack) which could be another Mouldy Old Dough. Another **Specials** label, **Race**, sign **The People** but Musical Man lacks any bite or direction which is sad. **Bruce Woolley** teams up with Thomas Dolby for "Ghost Train" (CBS) but still fails to find the magic chart sparkle. Best of the bunch must be **The Cassettes** from Leicester whose "Don't Label Me" (Zip) is a great song crossing lines between Costello and Joe Jackson but striking their own identity on the way.

Great album from **Jody St** which features ex-Moon vocalist **Noel McCalla** doing a more heavier approach and some powerful delivery there is too. Exciting guitar work throughout and a collection of substantial songs too, especially the single "Granny Did It" and the fiery workout "Mama Should Have Told You." Somewhat in the Lizzy vein at times but perhaps not so heavily stylised. Not generally available but worth investing in £4.50 (inc P & P) for mail order copy (cheques/pos payable to John Thomas Music) from Henry Thomas, 11b Lichfield Grove, Finchley Central, London N3, or £1.25 for the single.

Dark Star's debut finally emerges (Avatar) and well worth the wait. Well crafted hard-rock with thoughtful musicianship and solid handling of the usual metal mechanics. Belting stuff on "Rockbringer" and "Kaptain Amerika" and then a complete turnaround for a hauntingly sensitive "The Musician". Good un, long may they shine. **The AK Band** seems to have used the one backing track for all the songs on "Manhole Kids" (RCA) and none of them really carry much weight with the exception of the title track which is dated but of merit. Generally undistinguished modern rock.

The Au Pairs successfully elude my description of them as West Coast sounding on "Playing With A Different Sex" (Human) although I'm afraid that there's a lack of musical variety which surprises me. Nevertheless a flawed but excellent debut that seems as though it

BUZZINGS MIKE DAVIES

might be trying too hard. The songs of course are well in the upper echelons with the brilliant "It's Obvious" being the stand-out. "Come Again" is a minor classic from all angles but "Armagh" is somewhat disturbing in its confines of political vision. Now they've taken the first fence I look forward to a more relaxed second collection and a continuing healthy future for one of Birmingham's best bands.

Toyah seems to be finally riding high and "Anthem" (Safari) really consolidates upon her development to date. Not spectacular by any means and some of the songs leave a little to be desired as they soar into the realms of pretention, but it's a durable release and for the moment her role of fey armchair rebel seems to be paying off. "I Wanna Be Free" is a sterling piece of simplicity masquerading as pomp and circumstance with rather squirming lyrics but she compensates for that with real depth on both "Marionette" and "Jungles of Jupiter" while musically the stand outs must be "Masai Boy" and "We Are" (Shades of Hazel O'Connor) with "It's a Mystery" being the cornerstone. Certainly a more accessible album and one I'll return to after more than month.

Apologies to **Sussed** who appear to have been restyled Sussex a couple of issues back. **30 Seconds'** "Automatic" (Initial) picking up healthy Radio One reaction and the same label's Jack Nitzche and Bernard Szajner albums also coining in glowing articles/reviews. Went to see **Honeydrippers** with the Rialtos/Robert Plant and a sweat ridden blues evening it was too including renditions of "Deep In The Heart Of Texas" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky". Don't expect a Zep substitute if you catch them, this is the roots.

Tapes include two tracks from **Karol Kistian**, who used to be in Rise & Shine and hails from Dublin although is now resident in Brum. Both tracks were written and produced by ex-Money drummer **Tony Boden** and are well into the reggae/funky vein rather than the melody metal of yore. The record's due on Hobo shortly featuring "The Groove" and "Love City" and guitar work comes courtesy of Gary Moore.

Tony has also got his own band together called **East** along with Eamon Francis who used to be vocalist with Cerberus. They music they describe as thoughtful but genergetic, electrodelic and loud n rocky. He's already virtually secured a Japanese release for the album and is currently preparing for UK release and gigs to which end they're looking for keyboards. Tony is also involved with a production company (Top Cat Music) and is looking for tapes (modern and trendy stuff) to be sent to 3 Coleshill Rd, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1SH. OK. Other tapes from **Scorched Earth** offer developing ideas for their brand of metal, some of which bode well especially "Denouement" but all 4 samples make good listening, and live gigs should be worth a visit if they're up to this standard.

Semi-metal are **Trilogy** who provide a wealth of great titles, such as "Absence Makes The Tart Go Blonder" but whose music lack the same sparkle. Good musicians who don't sound too inspired by

ROCKY HOROVITZ

NEW DEPARTURES 12 & 13: EDITED MICHAEL HOROVITZ

Not often that poetry collections get into BrumBeat but since the man behind ND's is Stroud one-man-poet-and-his-band Michael Horovitz then it seems worth making the change. ND 12 is the Poetry Olympics issue which is an attempt to create an International Spirit of poetry both in printed and live contexts and this issue contains plenty to interest those who veer more towards the musical edge of the Arts. There's some dynamite work from Linton Kwesi Johnson in both white and black formats of language with "All Wi Doin Is Defendin'" standing out as a cry against black oppression and there's also some John Cooper Clarke prose that suggests that there's more to the man than a quick Mancunian laugh up the sleeve on a doggeral lead. There's also some work from Adrian Mitchell that should ease a smile from those who assume poems have to give you headaches. On a more serious note the work here of Gregory Corso, Dennis Lee, Edward Limonov and R.D. Laing deserve more than a dismissive gesture and Mike Horovitz's editorial is well worth assimilating. ND 13 is largely dedicated to John Lennon and while I think the best work concerning his death will emerge some time hence the In Memoriam by Tipton is sufficiently none self-aware to pass muster. Music aficionados will welcome a Robin Williamson offering as well as the dry wit of Ivor Cutler but really ought to give close attention to both the Lol Coxhill Pseuds Corner styled dialogue and John Cooper Clarke's "Apart From The Revolution". It's a more varied collection of work and on the whole more successful than the predecessor and in particular I can recommend the contributions of Adam Horovitz (raw pastoral), Adrian Henri, Roger McGough (comedy can be art), Heathcote Williams, and of course MH himself, always the Muse at Ten. Both issues are available from Piedmont, Bisley, Stroud, Glos GL6 7BU, the former at £1.00 and £1.40 inc p&p in both cases. MD

their material and the female lead vocal really doesn't suit the songs in this style at all. I suspect that given a direction they felt happier with then they could make something of a name but at the moment a new ELP we do not need, even in jest.

Carl Troia of **Mafia** fame appears again and the music gets better all the time. A new single is upcoming with "Something You've Seen" standing out as a mightily commercially appealing reggae lilter that bounces along with grace and style. "Mad Woman" is rockier and less accessible but still worth possessing. "Tell No Lies" seems a good single bet too with it's bounding pop attack, warm sax break and chirpy, catchy chorus. The band have the talent, all they need is the break. **Mick Doyle** is a name whose virtues I've extolled before in the paper and he tells me that **Sticky Fingers** could be back on the road soon but more importantly he's joined up with **Allan Fisher** (who has a great potential smash drum single "UFO's From Venus" in the can) and recorded a massively commercial song of called "Hometown" that reminds me slightly of "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" and could be equally huge. Straight commercial pop with Doyle's voice as masterful as ever soaring through

a money dripping chorus framed by silver lined verses. Great writer, great voice ... and now great teamwork.

New **Diamondhead** EP on their own label features 3 tracks... "Diamond Lights" (title cut) a remixed "Its Electric" and (I think) "We're Not Coming Back". **White Car** debut "Cinema Girl" due almost immediately on Friday Records. Good commercial pop from a band that's got that driving beat. **The Kicks** looking for a new name ... ideas to Brum Beat (no, Kidda will not be accepted) **Specials** single "Wolf In Sheep's Clothing" is same as "Why" not a different track ... slap on wrist and listen harder to whispers next time.

I (that's their name) are apparently increasing interest from labels with large cheque books these days and an announcement is awaited. **Slade** signed to RCA following demise of Cheapskate label. **Robin Valk**'s been out running in a variety of marathons of late and jogging like a true born American ... seem's he's misunderstood the term "street credibility". **The Last Detail** sounds interesting with ex-Wide Boy, Special Clinic and Nylon among the members and managed by Pete King who steered Steel Pulse to wherever they are these days.

Rock For LIFE

A Benefit for the Save Sheila Fund
The Girl Who is Allergic to the Twentieth Century

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AND

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Present Arms

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Fellowes Park
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LAZY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

I have just discovered what must be the only way to spend a Sunday in this city. Forget your local boozers, visits to Aunty Ada or watching Parks Football and get on down to Birmingham's Holiday Inn to partake of their exotic New Orleans Sunday Brunch.

The inclusive cost of £6.45p includes unlimited food, a cocktail on arrival and use of the Holiday Inn's not inconsiderable amenities complete with resident Dixieland Band.

The early arrivals apparently hit the pool around 9.30 a.m. and there is, so I hear, no end. We eventually acknowledged defeat around 4 p.m. and tottered back into the real world reluctantly leaving behind much uneaten food, the swimming pool, sauna, exercise machines, a well-stocked (though noticeably depleted) bar, very relaxing lounge areas and a romping band bravely battling through their umpteenth set - very little the worse for wear but distinctly out of focus.

New Orleans food is almost as famous as its jazz - its culinary heritage stemming from Creole Arcadian sources (should that be sauces?) French and Spanish influences are clearly present though the food remains distinctly American.

The New Orleans Brunch menu - you serve yourself and supplies appear limitless - gives an idea of the thought and care that has gone into this event.

Try this for size - Poached Egg Benedict, Fillets of Plaice Meunier, Pinto Bean Bake and Spareribs, Mississippi Jambalaya, Hash Browns, Southern Fried Chicken, some amazing salads and dressing, Pecan Pie, Blueberry Tarts, Passion Cake, Chocolate Fudge Cake, and then some.

Hosted by genial New Yorker Bill Houghtaling and his Birmingham-born wife Jill this really is a most unique event.

From the moment you are greeted with a Ramos Gin Fizz you find yourself in a world away from reality. The age spectrum is wide and children are very welcome - at a reduced rate of £4. The surroundings are relaxed and spacious and everything is very informal.

Jazz notes

Jim Bryant.

The band spot in Fat Sam's Jazz Parlour is alternated weekly between the Eagle Jazz Band and the New Savannah Jazz Band - on my visit I caught the latter who trogged with verve and vigour through a set of familiar songs freshened by unusual arrangements - 'Weary Blues', 'Bourbon Street Parade', 'St. Philips Street Breakdown', 'Pasadena', 'Cherry', 'Sweet Sue', 'Fine and Dandy' etc.

They have been together some 2 years, are Birmingham-based and line up as: Selwyn Newton (clarinet and alto), Cy Smith (trumpet and bass), Graham Wells (bass and trumpet), Dave Braidley (trombone and swanee whistle), George Linder (banjo and guitar) and drummer/leader Alan Bennett. Vocals are shared by Alan and Selwyn, banjo features on 'Ace in the Hole' After You've Gone' and 'Yeas Sir That's Still My Baby'. All fun and a band worth picking up on.

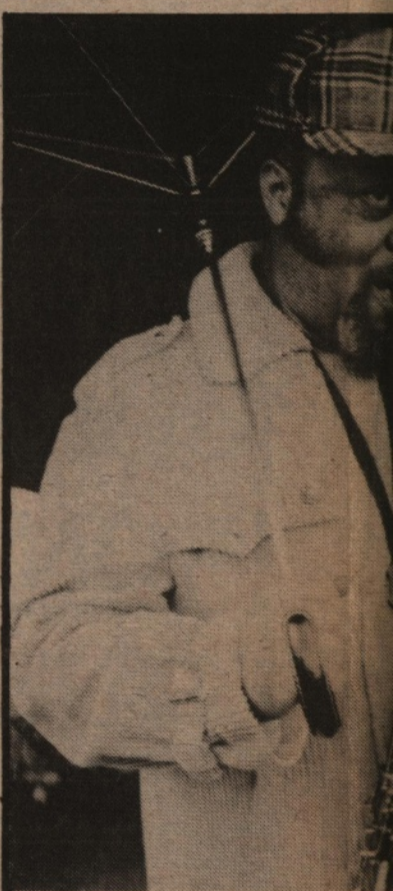
Holiday Inn's New Orleans Sunday Brunch is definitely worth checking out. Sunday Bloody Sunday is no more.

The recent Jimmy Witherspoon Opposite Lock gig was - as expected - a smasheroonie. Tough if you missed it - no excuses accepted - but you wouldn't have got in anyway. It was a sell-out. Great for the music, the promoters, and the club and especially for Spoon who is undoubtedly the most consummate performer of the genre still around.

While thinking of Kansas City it was sad to see that another of its luminaries - Mary Lou Williams - died of cancer last month. KC named a street after the pianist/composer/jazz historian and she will be kindly remembered for her nurturing of emergent talent in the Bebop era notably her protegee Art Blakey but also Bud Powell, Thelonious, Bird and Diz.

Checking out imminent live jazz events in the Midlands - great to see Australia's main man still in action - Graeme Bell's Australian All Stars visit the Derby Jazz Club at the Hardie Club on June 8th followed by Bill Brunskill's New Orleans

Jazz south- at the Ken (13th) (20th) (27th) (4th). Birmm present Strath Coxhill Midlan Stitt p Strath On J at the city's J



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**BRUM
BEAT**

PHOTO FILE



Pictured here are the Spoilers, better known to the world as the exiled Birmingham band of the late 'Seventies, Blackfoot Sue who hit the charts with 'Standing in the Road'. They will be playing at Birmingham's Barrel Organ on July 4th and 5th, headlining the Alternative Independence Celebrations at the top pub venue to mark American Independence Day. The Spoilers spent several months in America recording an album for Atlantic Records and also considering releasing their 'Avenue of the Americas' as a single. The band will play both Saturday night and Sunday lunchtime in what will be only their second Birmingham gig for six years.



COBBLING ON..

It's only a matter of weeks since BRUM BEAT announced the opening of Birmingham's newest acoustic music club but we're happy to report that Cobblers has got off with a bang.

Pictured above are resident stalwarts Chris Kiel (left) and Tim Griffiths who can be found every Wednesday at the Calthorpe Old Boys' Club, 96 Bristol Street. This agreeable venue has hosted visits from such locals as Chris Rust, Jim Cleary, Pete Mason and Chris Garbo (see reviews) who marked his return to the Midlands after a two year Belgian break with a powerful performance which took Cobblers by storm.

Modest admission prices (Members 30p, Guest 50p) have ensured good houses and aspiring musicians are encouraged to show up for floor spots.
Pic: Mel James

HEAVIES

Album: DARK STAR - AALP 5003

DARK STAR

Single: LADY OF MARS - AAA 105
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MAINLY FOLK

Sean Patel

Mouldy Old Dough 1

What has Peasmouldia Folk Club in common with Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts? Well, Radio 4 listeners will know that Herr Marvin's ensemble has had many previous incarnations starting with a sixties one hit wonder outfit called Terry Dactyl and the Dinosaurs. Their magnum opus, a summer holiday exploitation blockbuster called Seaside Shuffle, hit the airwaves on a recent R4 analysis of Marvin's Progress.

At the time, seaside shuffle had seemed a Good Thing but not musically significant. With the benefit of hindsight I can now point to it as the forerunner of a movement even now lapping the shores of the UK musik scene and threatening to engulf us all shortly.

Yes Gentle reader, Cajun music is on it's way to your cerebral cortex. All the way from Louisiana with a leg up from Rockin' Dopsie and the Cajun Twisters on the way through the Seventies and now flowering in Derby (the home of Rock-a-Billabong) through the genius of Peasmouldia resident Chris Hall and his band "R. Cajun". (Geddit?)

Well that, what he told me to say and Ms Patel's little boy is not above scratching the odd back now and then.

Back to Butlins?

1981 could be the year in which the Great Festival Bubble bursts. For some time the established wisdom has been that clubs are struggling but festivals are booming. Since clubs have always struggled the first statement is irrelevant. The second has been true up till now but so far in 1981 two local festivals have had disappointing turnouts.

Maybe a hot summer will see a new surge of interest in camping, drining and queuing for the toilets but a wet one could see some nasty financial croppers. The biggest feature of festivals these days is their sameness. The same Artists each week trekking off to yet another field for the same mixture of concerts, dances, singarounds, junk food and beer. Anybody got a better idea?

Mouldy Old Dough 2

Dave Morton has this terrible problem. With his mate, Tom Patterson, Dave runs a weekly Folk Club at the Trafalgar in Moseley each Friday. There are a good few singers and musicians in the area who come to play, and lots of people think that it's good entertainment so they come every week and pay money to get in.

After paying the landlord £10 for the room, which is slightly worse than extortion, they have no further outgoings. Over the weeks the money paid for admission has accumulated to the point where they are seriously embarrassed. They don't really need it for beer or loose women, being sober and upright person in full employment, and they would like to put it back into the club.

The usual answer would be to employ some highly paid professional Folk Singer to come and "Give them a good night". Unfortunately, they are not altogether sure that this would be any more enjoyable than the excellent nights that they already have. They are also concerned that a shift away from the singer's club format will affect the attitude of the audience and lead to a self defeating cycle of having to book ever bigger names to keep the punters coming.

The modest weekly profit would not go far if shared equally between regular singers who turn up for their own satisfaction anyway. If they reduce their, already low, admission charge they tend to get drunks who are not interested in the music and disrupt the proceedings.

Maybe beer and loose women is the best bet after all

Perform Update No 5,678,946,032/B

Amid scenes of gentle anarchy, contrasting pleasantly with last month's unpleasantness, genial Al Smith had himself declared Regional Dictator with power to chop off all our heads if he sees fit.

A long and unprofitable wrangle over the way that clubs are run led to general agreement to drop the subject for good. From then on everybody was officially to be regarded as a thoroughly fine and respectable person, grasping capitalist and beer sodden morris dancer alike.

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VAN SALES

Felicity Burski: 4 O'Clock In America (Tamarin): see early Janis Ian, a delight. Billy Karloff & Extremes: Summer Holiday (WEA): rained out! Spider: Better Be Good To Me (Dreamland): a la Smokie, ace song, ace treatment. Bagatell: Second Violin (Polydor): superb romantic ballad from Irish band, deserving of much better reaction. Beautiful!

Kirsty McColl: There's A Guy Works Down The Chip Shop Swears He's Elvis (Polydor). Great in a Dave Edmunds/Carlene Carter vein with country treatment on flip. Bound to be a hit! Sector 27: Martin's Gone (Panic Records): Probably heard this single: Psychedelic Furs: Pretty In Pink (CBS): lousy on vinyl. The Step: Chain Gang (Epic): don't deserve parole! Eurythmics: Never Gonna Cry Again (RCA): Annie & Dave from Tourists forge new direction with same positive edge. Strong modern pop debut.

Titch Turner's Escalator: Don't Really Want You Back Again (Cheapskate) reminds me of Graham Parker but not as wonderful as the band is in live action. Vangelis: Heaven & Hell (RCA): catalogue mining on back of freak hit. Rick Springfield: Jessie's Girl (RCA) current rave, very Phil Lynott sounding, a five star rock-pop single that deserves huge success. Doug & The Slugs: Too Bad (RCA): reissue on major label but don't see it catching on, shame really. Pleasant pop. Kicks: Hot Stuff (RCA): pleasant not too strong but pleasant ballad treatment. Nice. Keith Marshall: Silver & Diamonds (Arrival): 'Crying' part 2 and very pleasant. Pigbag: Papa's Got A Brand New Pigbag (Y): superb tribal drums and funky jazz instrumental, a breath of fresh air.

Tom Gribbin: Guns of Brixton (Country Roads): interesting country version of Clas song. Depeche Mode: New Life (Mute): fizzy electro-pop with no real aims. Tygers of Pan Tang: Don't Stop By (MCA): don't buy, stop! Evasions: Wikka Wrap (Groove): funrapping record on Whicker island. Fallout Club: Dream Soldiers (Happy Birthday): futurist a la Spandau/Vox vocals and dreamy instrumentation, almost operatic. A delight. Splodge: Cowpunk Medlunz (Splodge): novelty has worn off, this is tedious. Split Enz: History Never Repeats (A&M): neither it seems do hits. Good record though.

Angel Witch: Loser (Bronze): too true. The Professionals: Join The Professionals (Virgin): dread-

**SINGLE
FILE**

Paul Bearer

fully misnamed band 3½ years too late. Shakin Pyramids: Tennessee Rock n Roll (Virgin): too authentic to be a hit, but 4 track EP is good listening.

Maclean & Maclean: Dollie Parten's Tits (Singing Dog): great country piss-take that should bust out. The Donkeys: Let's Float (MCA): more likely to sink without trace. Ingrid: Stop Wasting Your Time (Polydor): precisely. Eno & Byrne: The Jezebel Spirit (Polydor): excellent moody club remix from Bush of Ghosts. Deserves massive sales. Duffo: Walk On The Wild Side (PVK): update of Reed classic that actually works. Bernie Marsden: Sad Clown (Parlaphone): good poppyrock from stand-out solo album by Whitesnake grist.

Dennis Waterman: Come Away With Me (EMI): Frankie Miller pinch, nice song, shame about the singer. Johnny Warman: Screaming Jets (Rocket): with Peter Gabriel and it shows, deserves mucho chart status, good percussion. The Belle Stars: Hiawatha (Stiff): sounds like a female Madness actually. Zounds: Demystification (Rough Trade): nifty almost poppy attack with real chorus.

Tan Tan: A Summer Place (Rough Trade): Percy Faith goes reggae trumpet and very relaxing too. Wire: Our Swimmer (Rough Trade): back to quirky commercialism retaining serrated edge. Gillan: No Laughin In Heaven: (Virgin): 4 track ep, title cut one of his best plus a 2 minute mile dash through 'Lucille'. Essential Logic: Fanfare In The Garden (Rough Trade): last release and nicely diverse musically with a wafting ease and Lora Logic's creamy vocals. The Motors: Dancing The Night Away (Virgin): ace, from "Motor's Greatest Hit" album, great band gone nowhere.

Fingerprutz: Shadows (Virgin): good songs, pallid execution. Sheena Eator: When He Smiles (EMI): licenced to thrill Our Daughter's Wedding Lawnchairs (Design): catchy modern poprock designed to invade your mind. Allen & Blewitt: (I'm Gonna Watch Crossroads) (EMI): not as funny as the programme.

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FREE RADIO NEWS

BY JEFF COLE

Back to boredom on the radio for much of June following the numerous Bank Holidays of recent weeks. One advantage of a wet Bank Holiday, though, is that you can stay indoors and listen to free radio, as at least one local pirate is usually on the air.

Sunday 24 May was no exception and Sounds Alternative overcame the problems which had been troubling them on previous occasions when they came on the air at noon on 255m medium wave with a very strong signal indeed across Birmingham. Their programmes lasted until 5pm and included contemporary rock music, featuring many local bands, plus two hours of reggae. Sometimes free radio stations can be difficult to pick-up unless you have a good receiver and aerial, but no special requirements are necessary to listen to the medium wave broadcasts of Sounds Alternative.

In addition to their occasional MW transmissions, the station also transmit on the first and third Sunday evening of each month on 94.2 FM from 7pm. A few technical problems have been encountered recently but these are being worked on, so the signal should improve in future. When listening to FM stations it is always advisable to have an external aerial erected on the roof. Alternatively, as second best, operate the radio from as high up as possible (eg. if you live in a house use an upstairs room) and if the set is portable with a telescopic aerial, pull this out fully and rotate it in different directions until the best signal is received.

E.S.T. have continued testing recently on 94.3 FM, at times with a very good signal. For example, on the evening of Sunday 17 May different aerials were experimented with and a record number of letters were received from listeners, who heard the station from Halesowen to Walsall and from Wolverhampton to Solihull. Over the weekend of 30/31 May a final series of tests were made prior to the official opening of the station, and these tests even included a programme presented by Roger Scott of Capital Radio in London! (By the way, he didn't pass the audition so he won't be heard again).

During the transmissions it was announced that E.S.T. will be officially opening at 3pm on Saturday 4 July, with a repeat of the broadcast on Sunday 5 July at 5pm. So make a note of these times as the station will be well worth a listen. From then on E.S.T. hope to be on the air every Saturday afternoon 3-5pm, and on the second and fourth Sunday evening of each month 7-9pm, with a repeat of the previous day's programmes.

Finally, another reminder to local bands that Sounds Alternative and E.S.T. will give you airtime free if you would like to send them demo discs and tapes. Both can be contacted via Brum Beat: the former at Box 255 and the latter at Box 943.

I'm off the California now to listen to some American radio, so I'll bring you up to date with the free radio news in two months. In the meantime, if you're going on holiday I hope you enjoy yourself as much as I'm going to! Why not take a radio with you and see what stations you can receive?

Happy listening!

UB40: PRESENT ARMS

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An important release for UB40 and one that more than confirms the critical acclaim for lasting success that accrued to the release of "Signing Off".

There's not instantly a great progression although certain, shifting nuances are there to indicate that the hand haven't been content to rest easy and it's noticeable that the languid haze of the earlier recordings has taken on a more persuasive and forceful edge. The album's a lot sharper than the debut and although it's far more assured, that confidence hasn't manifested itself in a sense of complacency and for that reason I suspect that this is likely to prove the equal of its predecessor.

The title track opens up the album with a square bashing introduction before urging itself into a mood of restrained tension and a deep running fire that prefers to smoulder rather than blaze. "Silent Witness" strikes me as the most sensually appealing track musically and is possibly the one number that stands out as a melodic departure from the rest of the album for a while retaining the jazz reggae approach there feels to be an inherent folk base to it. It's also my other favourite cut, prime place going to "One In Ten", which seems like a good bet for a second single. It's this album's "Burden Of Shame" carrying that same casual intensity in both lyric and mood as it attacks a world that reduces all shades of misery to statistics.

Space precludes extensive comment so I'll rest by adding "Sardonicus" and the warmth of "Don't Slow Down" to my choice tracks and suspecting that although I find "Lamb's Bread" initially overlong that it'll probably snake itself into my soul before I wear the album out. As before initial quantities have a free 45 12", here with 2 instrumentals that maintain their more improvised development of a theme within the reggae jazz dub field. Present Arms puts you at ease and demands attention.

Mike Davies

DURAN DURAN

EMI EMC 3372

I wanted to like this, I really did. In places I get partly there but I'm afraid that overall the album is far too much like the live set in as much as there's a distinct lack of variety. The frum tracks seem to maintain too close a similarity from one cut to another and while I rate Taylor as a musician I feel that he's too confined here by the actual structures of the material.

Having said that there are certain tracks where there's a degree of subtlety and shading that is rarely evident in live performance, notably on "Tel Avid" and "To The Shore" which shows that the band can really stretch out and develop the formula in an alluring manner. On the other hand "Night Boat" and "Friends Of Mine" seem to take an eternity to get nowhere in particular and it's on tracks such as these that the lack of colour in Simon Le Bon's vocals is really accentuated. Much of the album attempts to create mood music for modern disco rather than take the direct dance attack of the two excellent singles "Planet Earth" and "Careless Memories" (which should really have done infinitely better chartwise) and frankly I don't see a third single with the same potential, although I suspect "Girls On Film" will nag itself sufficiently into a fair showing.

I'd like to think too that "Sound of Thunder" could impress itself on a public consciousness but it'll be through isolated tracks rather than as a whole that the album will make itself felt and en block the tedious factor may prove too overwhelming for lasting success. The songs themselves are often excellent lyrically with some powerful images but the execution doesn't do them full justice. I fear that it may be too much too soon for Duran Duran and wonder whether their major venue tour may not prove somewhat of a short, sharp and extremely expensive shock. Meantime I remain substantially impressed and yet haltingly unconvinced.

Mike Davies

REVIEWS



CHRIS GARBO

Cobblers Birmingham

After an absence of two years spent in Belgium or some other Continental-type backwater, Chris Garbo returns to his native Birmingham with a clutch of songs that in all truth can only be described as outstanding.

A couple of years back the ace singer/songwriter took up punk and fronted a band called Garbo's Celluloid Heroes but he's now returned to the acoustic style which so favours both his voice and his material.

Songs like the magical 'Too Blind To See' (almost recorded by Rod Stewart) or the incredibly commercial 'Still Believing' only hint at the

wealth of talent hidden in this powerful performer.

I'm privileged enough to own a demo tape of Chris' work which includes material which he couldn't perform live without the aid of an eight piece band complete with expensive effects among which is at least one sure-fire hit - 'Radio Station'.

It's a great pity that Garbo has not been around for the past couple of years - his music deserves to be heard, by as many people as humanly possible.

O.K. so melodies aren't hype at the moment, but with melodies of the calibre and craftsmanship of Garbo, they soon will be.

Steve Coxon

LYRIC

Bull Hotel Ludlow

Lyric played a stunning two hour set at Ludlow's Blues Club.

They've developed an excellent reputation and on this performance

it was easy to see why.

Personal favourite 'Cold Numbers' was a band composition which lasted twenty minutes but still managed to maintain a certain freshness about itself.

Pounding rhythm sections with clear, but slight, vocals and a

lead guitar which constantly pinches the top of your head off and runs a comb through the tangles inside.

Apart from '007', 'Running For My Life', and 'Up To You' the rest of the set was made up of not-so-standard standards which showed

the band to good effect.

Lyric don't have a uniform to wear, they're all individuals with a common energetic professionalism that makes them a joy to see and hear.

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REVIEWS

FUTURE TOYS

The Falcon Leicester

Any band that can turn in a performance that's skin tight and powerful enough for a seismograph read-out, under one lightbulb and amp lights, deserves all the success they can get.

Future Toys on every musical plane are an 'up to the minute' eighties band, groomed in the mould one would say, of Duran Duran and Spandau Ballet in terms of looks, but there I hasten to add, the similarities end. With numbers like 'Into The Wall', their creation of an individual style and sense of complete awareness and total conviction hits you head on, and induces you to breathe a sigh of relief as the realisation materialises, that the Toys are not culled from the 'cashing in on today's scene stream of outfits'.

The set lasted for just over an hour and although there were one or two flaws in the overall sound, these were easily outweighed by the self-confidence and inventiveness of each individual. Particular reference must be made to keyboard ace Phil Connolly, who for his part exorcised every demonic note possible from the moog.

Altogether it was an inspiring gig and provided the fusion within the band remains progressively stable, the doors to the big time could open to them a lot sooner than they think.

Future Toys are: Kirk Allsop (vocals), Andy Boyle (lead guitar), Paul Cullen (bass), Phil Connolly (keyboards) and Dave Simms (drums).

Tony Shelley.

MANITOBA Bridge Tavern Lichfield

This was to be Manitoba's first gig for 8 months, due to the theft of all their equipment earlier in the year, they had also recruited a new vocalist within the last fortnight and re-written much of their material.

A fresh incarnation of a great band is not to be missed - so off I trucked into the wild unknown, to Lichfield, and to the smallest venue I have ever seen.

After an enjoyable half hour from a folk guitarist/vocalist the band emerged from peals of thunder and crashes of cymbals and in complete contrast roared into a tight aggressive set. All the songs are self penned numbers which have interesting

chord structures provided by Steve Moran and Chris Healey on guitars and unusual tempo patterns hammered out by Mark Jones on drums. Andy 'skate' Wright held the show together with precise and well punctuated bass lines which blended nicely with both drums and guitars. The best numbers were 'cocain', 'shooting star' and 'rainbow'.

The band could have been better rehearsed and at times Chris Healey's 'up tempo' drumming was a little too 'up tempo'. These problems will I'm sure be ironed out by road work and rehearsing. Full marks must go to new vocalist Andy Derby, who is both physically and vocally a giant - with a voice so powerful that I don't know why they needed a P.A.

Chris Sargeant

SURFACE

Mercat X

Surface - a four piece, guitar, bass, drums and vocals - don't appear sure whether they're the kind of gross Heavy Metal outfit Brum seems to have an endless supply of, or the sort of mellowed-out hard rock band that dominates American FM radio; the result presented at the Mercat Cross was a basic Heavy Metal set - delivered with competence, the usual Flying V poses, bare-chested macho posturing, a public bar mythology and a cliché overdose - given the lightweight crystal clear sound, every note and nuance audible at the inoffensive volume you expect from your in-car stereo.

Heavy Metal isn't my taste. Sur-

face do it as well as anyone I've ever seen, but it left me pretty unmoved.

Motorhead's inimitable Lemmy has pointed out that the punters decide who's heavy metal and who's not the tinal-dazed bikers and bed-denied Quo fans seemed as unimpressed as I was. There was nothing wrong with Surface's polished performance to explain this, but their potential audience is inherently conservative - perfectly happy to listen to Sabbath, Led Zep et al until the cows come home - and the lack of a suitable over-the-top headbanging volume must be a factor. Make up your minds, boys, and turn it up. Everything louder than everything else.

Stuart Creeves

TOYAH

De Montfort Hall, Leicester

The old 'Siouxie clone' accusations seem to be fading into history. Certainly, the hundreds of adoring fans, chanting 'Toyah, Toyah, Toyah' as the band got into position, were oblivious of such charges.

Bounding on to the stage to join her virginal white-clad band, Toyah launched head first into some powerful songs and energetic dances. It was exhausting just to watch her.

Toyah has to be such a focal point though, to camouflage the simple, and often very naive lyrics. The new song about love between a young boy and girl which is treated as a crime, is a prime example.

The inevitable 'It's A Mystery' came late in the set, which ended with the majestic 'Aiya'. The thunderingly powerful 'Dance' was the first encore, but with so much available material, why did we then have a second rendition of 'I Wanna Be Free'? It's a mystery!

Alan Seaman

DEGOTEES

Fighting Cocks

Since I first saw Degotees about six months ago, they've changed drummer and drastically altered the set out with the old, in with the new.

Degotees are: Glynn Bush (Gtr. Vcls), Mark Rowson (Bass), Trevor Lines (Drums), and Bridget Enever (Sax, Violin, Oddball Percussion, Vocals). The music they make is original, challenging, and angular (angular - as in acute and obtuse), the lyrics are thoughtful, demand attention, make you think and even smile. You can dance to it, but sadly, not many people try. This, I think, is partly due to the inherited myth that good, original, different music is difficult, humourless and inaccessable. (Degotees music is quirky, poppy fun, but it has depth), and partly due to the fact that the group's visual presentation is non-existent the music is all. In songs like 'Audience Rites' and 'Back to MOR', a little gentle fun is poked at audience apathy.

There are shades of The Fall, Raincoats, and early XTC in the stuttery rhythms, loping bass-lines, banshee violin and the violent sax - by turns, joyous, jokey and anguished. The influences are manifold, the frame of reference reaches back to early jazz, Broadway Musicals, percolated through Coltrane, Zappa, Beefheart. We even get something close to cheeky, Cockney buskers when Bush and Rowson trade instruments for 'Checkout Tesco' and 'Boom-Boom Goes The Atom Bomb'.

Degotees will not be appearing on Top of the Pops this side of the revolution. They may never make a record. I really mustn't leave it so long before I see them again.

Stuart Creeves

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Some excellent albums about this month, kicking off with the prime release, Paul Brady's "Crazy Dreams" (WEA). Ex vocalist with Planxty, Brady turns out an album in the Van Morrison vein yet less indulgent. Superb arrangements and great haunting vocals on thoughtful and heartwarming songs, notably title cut and "Nothing But The Same Old Story". Long awaited Tom Petty release "Hard Promises" (MCA) well worth the anticipation. Petty mixes in both Byrds and Dylan influences here, the latter notably on "Insider". One of his best offerings with a harder edge to many of the numbers. Check out "The Waiting" and "The Criminal Kind".

Welcome back to Sean Tyla too with "Just Popped Out" (Zilch) in which the gravel throated wonder adds more reasons why his talent should be listed alongside Parker, Petty, Springsteen when it comes down to turning up the goods. The whole album sparkles but in particular you deserve to hear "Diamond Lane", "Big Fat Zero" and the stupendous "Breakfast In Marin".

Positive Noise's "Heart of Darkness" (Statik) is very close to Joy Division, especially the drums, and with that same intensity that still smokes of raw romantic passion. "Treachery" and "Ghosts" earn several constellations but the rest are few stars behind. Magnificence too from Doll By Doll (Magnet) who return with a dynamite album rippling with electrifying songs. Best cuts are "Caritas" and "The Perfect Romance" with provocative lyrics throughout but the whole album exists solely for the single, "Main Travelled Roads" which is redolent of an Irish traditional air and pure ethereal beauty from start to close.

Squeeze bounce back too making music that Paul McCartney used to strive for when he was still alive, on "East Side Story" (A&M). "Tempered" is vintage Beatles romance, as is "Labelled With Love" while they even throw in a touch of country. This kicks them straight into the top bracket. Well back on form is "The Fox" from Elton John (Rocket), even to the extent of another epic instrumental, "Carla Etude". Taupin co-credits some tracks best of which must be "Just Like Belgium". Thoughtful songs too.

Same goes for Echo & The Bunny-men's "Heaven Up Here" (Korova) which adds extra dimensions to the debut and again recalls JD with its percussion on "All My Colours". Tense and dark the album is one to take you beyond the veil, especially "All I Want" and "Over The Wall".

Another 101 compilation, "Club Sandwich" (101) is the best yet with stand-out contributions from The Fix and Repo Central, plus Nautycultures ignored pop gem "Someday Sunday". Angelic Upstarts ring a few changes on "2,000,000 Voices" (Zonophone) which amid the punkbush hides a passionate reggae track, "I Understand" and a plaintive cry from the heart, "I Wish". "Last Night Another Soldier" is still a classic of its kind. "Collectors Items" (Rag Baby) are the first 3 EP's from Country Joe & the Fish, including the original "Fixin' To Die" and "Tricky Dicky". Great to have for reference but I can't see who's going to buy them except pensionable hippies.

Jim Carroll Band's "Catholic Boy" finally gets a release here via CBS after volumes of rave import reviews. Poet-songs in the Patti Smith tradition with plenty of heroin references. Stones influenced on several tracks and best cuts are "Three Sisters", "Nothing Is True", "Day & Night" and the stunning catalogue of passed over colleagues "People Who Died", Superb. Heavy metal pop from Vardis with "The World's Insane", so's Logo for signing them. A little too forced is Modern Eon's "Fiction Tales" (DinDisc) with the breathy vocals becoming a little tedious after a while along with the stereotyped drumming, but "Child's Play" is a nice marriage of early Yes and "Vienna".

The Sinceros "Pet Rock" (Epic) is much delayed and extremely pleasant, smooth musical wallpaper. Samson rock back with "Shock Tactics" (RCA) with their usual megametal attack plus a fairly appeal-

NEEDED Paul Bearer

ing Russ Ballard single "Riding With The Angels". Good Rats' "Great American Music" (Logo) is far from it. Dull Yank hard rock. Merely dull is Keith Emerson's soundtrack for "Nighthawks" (Backstreet), should be put out to pasture immediately if he chums out dress like this. The Wanderers are left-over Sham69's and an ex Dead Boy and "Only Lovers Left Alive" (Polydor) makes you wonder why anyone still signs things like this.

Much to my surprise Barclay James Harvest's "Turn Of The Tide" (Polydor) is remarkably good, the departure of Wolstenholme laying wide the ground for real concern rather than cotton bud melodies. Easy and smooth but worth waking up for once, especially "Waiting On The Borderline" and "In Memory Of The Martyrs".

Peter Hammill discovers Peter Gabriel, Talking Heads and Robert Fripp and mixes them together for "Sitting Targets" (Virgin) with most agreeable results. Why would anyone in their right mind sign a band like The Hunt and release an album with a lame cover of "Little Bit Of Love"? Because they're Logo seems to be the answer see Vardis!

Virgin imports lead off with Urban Verbs' "Early Damage" (WEA) which is close to Talking Heads if less funky and due for release soon. PhD (Atlantic) is a hefty electronic duo that sounds a lot like Pavlov's Dog from time to time which is no bad thing. Worth investigating. Other offering changes styles and produces Ricky Scaggs from The Hit Band on a solo release, "Waitin' For The Sun To Shine" (Epic) and considering his limp performances with Emmylou it's a nifty slice of country rock, with the accent on the country.

Back to UK releases The Passage whose "For All And None" (Night And Day) is akin to Positive Noise but far more intense and dark. The Red Crayola team up with Art & Language and turn up quite a surprise with "Kangaroo" (Rough Trade) since many of the tracks have an infuriating commercial appeal, largely down to Lora Logic's vocals I suspect. "If She Loves You" in particular has an instant charm belying their reputation and the title track and "Keep All Your Friends" both transcend the usual headache syndrome. Roy Sundholm is much like Sean Tyla but without the benefit of strong material and "East Side, West Side" (Ensign) suffers for it, despite good performances.

Finally the prince of the new psychedelia Robin Hitchcock offers his solo album "Black Snake Diamond Role" (Armageddon) which is extremely individual and provoking. "Acid Bird" recalls The Byrds, "The Man Who Invented Himself" is early Bowie and "Brenda's Iron Sledge" is a delight. Excellent album.

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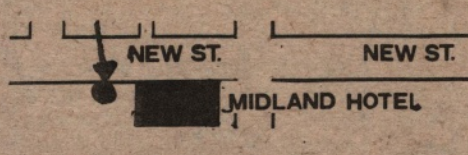


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 Fighting Cocks: Alternative
 Route/Prisoners
 Golden Eagle: Ricky Cool &
 The Rialtos
 Hobmoor: Bryn Ward Band
 Holte: Saracen
 Mercat: Boxer
 Opposite Lock: The Drogos
 Railway: Bandanna
 Tyburn: Nice 'n' Easy
 B'ham University: Quads/ Joe
 Jackson
BURTON:
 76 Club: A II Z
COVENTRY:
 Dog & Trumpet: Sub Zero
 General Wolfe: Chevy
NOTTINGHAM:
 Rock City: Teardrop Explodes/
 The Delmontes
SHIFNAL:
 The Star: Katz
SOLIHULL:
 The Viking: The Bakeroos
TAMWORTH:
 Chequers Hotel: Stranger
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: Emmitt Till
 Band
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Gifford Arms: Roxxe
 Lafayette: Dark Star
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 Crown Corporation St: Where's
 Eddie
 Fighting Cocks: Eyeless in
 Gaza/Felt
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 Opposite Lock: Dementia 13
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GRACE

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 The Playboys
 Railway: Buckshee
 Star Club: Vision Collision
 Tyburn House: Bert & Les
 Strathallan: Ian Cars Nucleus
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: Sub Zero
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 The Hollybush: White River
 Band
 ● **MONDAY 15th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Billesley: Quads
 Drakes Drum: Quill
 Golden Eagle: The Honeydrip-
 pers
 Holte: Chalkie
 Holy City Zoo: Three Laws
 Mercat: Vixen
 Railway: Sticky
 Romeo & Juliets: Ethel The
 Frog
 Odeon: Sky
 The Sherwood: Spliss
SOLIHULL:
 The Viking: Country Reunion
STAFFORD:
 Riverside Recreation Centre:
 Brooklyn
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Hen & Chickens: Patsy Powell
 & Goodtimers/Key West
 ● **TUESDAY 16th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Alberts Wine Bar: Andy Hamil-
 ton
 Barrel Orgar: Straight Up
 Hobmoor: Patsy Powell & The
 Goodtimers
 Hunters Moor: Quill
 Mercat: Valley Forge
 Odeon: Sky
 Railway: Paradox
 Tyburn House: Country Night
LEAMINGTON SPA:
 The Crown: Stax
NOTTINGHAM:
 Rock City: Toots & The Maytals
 ● **WEDNESDAY 17th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Barrel Orgar: Emmitt Till Band
 Hobmoor: Country Night
 Hunters Moor: Chalkie
 Mercat: Born Loser/Bluesnite
 Opposite Lock: Head Bolt
 Tyburn House: Misty Blue
HEREFORD:
 Market Tavern: Sub Zero
LEAMINGTON SPA:
 The Crown: Alibi/Ken Ducer
STRETTON ON DUNSMORE:
 The Dun Cow: Cotton Gin
STOURBRIDGE:
 McCoy's: The Dealers
 ● **THURSDAY 18th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Barrel Orgar: Orphan
 Fighting Cocks: Reality/Private
 Golden Cross: Country Night
 Golden Eagle: Xpertz
 Holte: Quill
 Mercat: Bazuka Joe
 Railway: Last Detail
COVENTRY:
 Dog & Trumpet: The Editors
 General Wolfe: Quads
LEAMINGTON SPA:
 The Crown: Dark Star
 Shambles: Hot Snacks
NOTTINGHAM:
 University: UB40
NUNEATON:
 The Pavillion: White River Band


● **FRIDAY 19th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Barrel Orgar: Willy & The Poor-
 boys
 Cedar Club: Positive Noise
 Crown Corporation Street:
 Atlantis
 Fighting Cocks: Iganda/Army
 Golden Eagle: Babylon Rebels
 Hobmoor: Palladin
 Holte: Chalkie
 Mercat: Boxer
 Railway: Grace
 Tyburn House: Calico Blue
COVENTRY:
 Dog & Trumpet: Stax
COWLEY:
 High Chaparral: Cotton Gin
NOTTINGHAM:
 Rock City: Bauhaus/Subway
 Sect
SHIFNAL:
 The Star: Tall Story
SOLIHULL:
 Sixth Form College: Escha
 Viking: The Bakeroos
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: Emmitt Till
 Band
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Ashwood: White River
 Band
 Gifford Arms: Tall Story
 Lafayette: T.V. Smiths Explorers
SMETHWICK:
 The Gaiety: Bright Eyes
 ● **SATURDAY 20th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Barrel Orgar: New Clear Band
 Cedar Club: Department S
 Crown Corporation St: Scruffy
 Gents
 Hobmoor: White River Band
 Fighting Cocks: Escha
 Mercat: Denigh
 Odeon: The Undertones
 Railway: Bandanna
 Sherwood: Emmitt Till Band
 Tyburn House: Bert & Les
COVENTRY:
 Dog & Trumpet: Willy & The
 Poorboys
 General Wolfe: Modern English
DUDLEY:
 J.B.'s: T.V. Smiths Explorers
LEAMINGTON SPA:
 Buffs Club: Cotton Gin
LINCOLN:
 RAF Knockton: Paradox
SHIFNAL:
 The Star: Lotus Esters

DUDLEY:
 The Crown: Steel
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 ● **MONDAY 22nd**
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 Drakes Drum: Quill
 Holte: Chalkie
 Holy City Zoo: Duce
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 Odeon: Teardrop Explodes
 Railway: Sticky
 Romeo & Juliets: Trilogy
 Sherwood: Buckshee
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 Fighting Cocks: Quads/Partizans

PERSHORE:
 College of Agriculture: The
 Dealers
SHIFNAL:
 The Star: The Mob
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Barley Mow: Sub Zero
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 Lafayette: Modern English
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BIRMINGHAM:
 Pipe Hall: The Spys
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 Cedar Club: A Certain Ratio
 Crown Corporation St: Atlantis
 Golden Eagle: Pinkies
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 Corhill
 Odeon: The Tubes
 Railway: Grace
 Tyburn House: Bryn Ward
 Handsworth College: Paradox
BURTON:
 76 Club: Lautrec
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 Dog & Trumpet: Oasis
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NOTTINGHAM:
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SHIFNAL:
 The Star: Snakes Alive
SOLIHULL:
 The Viking: The Bakeroos
SUTTON:
 Sutton Park: Helpless Huw/
 Valley Forge/The Utensils
UTTOXETER:
 Race Course (Paddock Suite):
 Cotton Gin
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Gifford Arms: Kraken
 Lafayette: Jameson Raid
 ● **SATURDAY 27th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Cedar Club: The Meteors
 Crown Corporation St: Sykes
 Hobmoor: Cotton Gin
 Mercat: Shader
 Odeon: Marvin Gaye
 Opposite Lock: Dementia 13
 Railway: Bandanna
 Sherwood: Paradox
 Tyburn House: Calico Blue
COVENTRY:
 Dog & Trumpet: The Zorky
 Twins
NOTTINGHAM:
 Rock City: Judie Tzuke
SHIFNAL:
 The Star: The Lazars
SOUTHAM:
 Craven Arms: Shaper
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: Victorian
 Parents
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Gifford Arms: Sub Zero
 ● **SUNDAY 28th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Crown Corporation St: Flair
 Eagle & Tuns: Missing Persons
 Golden Cross: Shiloh
 Railway: Buckshee
 Tyburn House: Bert & Les
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: The Naturals
 ● **MONDAY 29th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 B'ham University (Deb Hall):
 Vision Collision
 Drakes Drum: Quill
 Holte: Chalkie
 Holy City Zoo: Soft Asylum
 Mercat: Trojan
 Railway: Sticky
 Red Lion Kings Heath: White
 River Band
 Romeo & Juliets: Kraken
 Sherwood: China Doll
 Billesley: The Dealers
SOLIHULL:
 The Viking: Country Reunion
STAFFORD:
 Riverside Recreation Centre:
 Big Daisy
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Hen & Chickens: Southbound/
 Palladin
 ● **TUESDAY 30th**
BIRMINGHAM:
 Alberts Wine Bar: Andy Hamil-
 ton
 Hobmoor: White River Band
 Hunters Moor: Quill
 Mercat: Tobruk
 Railway: Paradox
 Tyburn: Country Night
LEAMINGTON SPA:
 The Crown: And Also The Trees
LINCOLN:
 Drill Hall: Diamond Head
MALVERN:
 Phoenix Club: Axe Victim



STRATFORD:
 Green Dragon: Axe Victim
WEST BROMWICH:
 Coach & Horses: Willy & The
 Poorboys
WOLVERHAMPTON:
 Hen & Chickens: Clive Miller
 ● **SUNDAY 21st**
BANBURY:
 Banbury F.C.: Cotton Gin
BIRMINGHAM:
 Crown Corporation St: Flair
 Eagle & Tuns: Missing Persons
 Golden Cross: Desperado
 Railway: Buckshee
 Tyburn House: Bert & Les
BURTON:
 Burton Country Club: White
 River Band



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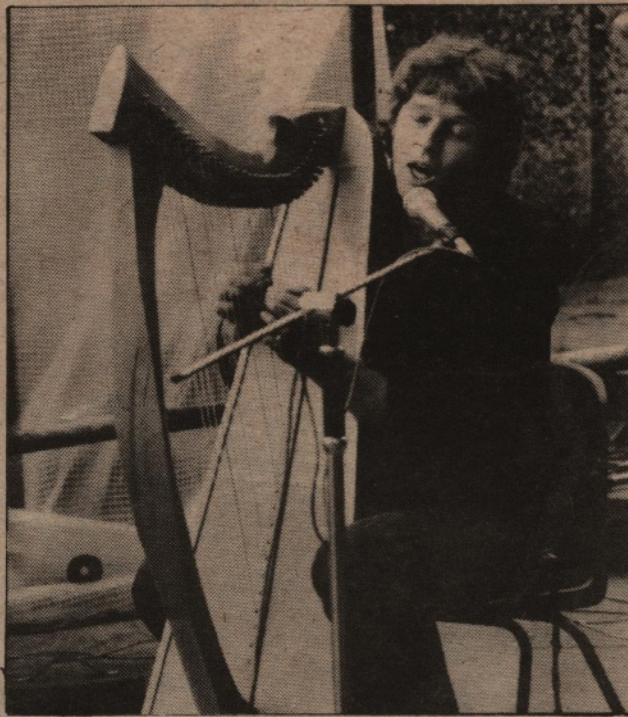
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THE QUADS

June
12th BIRMINGHAM UNIV.
13th HERFFORD Royal National College
15th Kings Heath Billesley
18th COVENTRY General Wolfe
20th DORSET Inst. of Higher Ed.
25th Moseley Fighting Cocks
July
4th CANNOCK PARK / 18th WORCESTER
Anti-Nukes Festival

..and lastly

Golden Eagle's future said to be in the balance. Some reports say that it is due to demolition, others that it is in line for major refurbishment. Landlord Clive Ritchie and Ansell's head office coyly avoided the issue when confronted by our intrepid newshound.... Look out for Willy and the Poorboys BBC Radio One sessions transmitted second and fourth weeks in June on the Peter Powell show.... Cannon Hill Arts Centre's svelte Steve (no relation) Simpson a touch bemused when confronted by presumably bra-less chanting Ms. persons at recent Arts Centre showing of soft porn movie 'Dressed to Kill'. Apparently the thin opening night trade picked up to almost sell-out status during the rest of week in response to the publicity the demonstration received. The uncharitable amongst us may feel that the wily Steve himself arranged the demo to compensate for the competition over at the Alexandra Theatre in the form of Fiona Richmond's 'Wot No Pyjamas' which incidentally was rather good.... Those lovable Lockers Nouveau Dave and Nick overheard muttering darkly about a conspiracy which, they claim, was intended to drive



PARKORAMA

their newly launched Dementia 13 out of business. They say there were some phantom phone-calls to agencies cancelling bands, that their publicity was tampered with, - and that's only the beginning. Apparently all is now well, they consider that they have weathered the storm and are now looking for a steady build-up.... Josh Jones of the Quads tells horrifying and hilarious tales from

the Peoples March for Jobs which saw the band as 4 of the original 180 marchers who made the entire Liverpool to London trek, which meant them giving up all other activities during May. Full marks to the Quads for demonstrating their absolute commitment to their beliefs. They also played 18 fund-raising concerts en route. 'Record Mirror's review of the Brockwell

Park gig with Pete Townshend, the Members, Tour de Force, Aswad, Richie Havens et al describes the Quads as "the freshest band of the day" despite their 12 mile pre-gig hike.... Doesn't time fly - backwards. Current issue of Scene magazine is dated May/June 1981 on the front cover, but by the time you reach page 3, the clock is turned back to March/April. Have they discovered the secret of eternal life?.... The Old Ants Network works again. Apparently Adam Ant's friendship with Kevin Rowland was, we hear, the deciding factor in the CBS decision to sign Dexy's Midnight Runners following EMI's failure to pick up their contractual option.... A pity that the excellent Parkorama event was so poorly attended. The first open-air event of the summer (and possibly the last if the weather doesn't improve) proved an idyllic way to spend a Saturday afternoon with a bewildering procession of fascinating and unusual acts.... Beware all Midland bands apparently Airphix are attempting to lure away bass players with offers of money and a good time.... Moseley Village must have been deserted during the recent Birmingham University Au Pairs gig as most of the citizens seemed to be on stage, jamming on the band's final number.... We've heard strange stories of Duran Duran's abandonment at a motorway caff. Perhaps you had better buy that limo yourselves lads. While on the subject of DD we hear that their rivalry with Fashion is hotting up. Keep the gossip coming.

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