

# overall

THERE IS A SMELL OF FRIED ONIONS · ISSUE 5 · AUGUST 1991

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PHOTO: JEFF DAVY

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INSIDE: AUGUST GIG GUIDE JAZZ/CLUB LISTINGS FESTIVAL GUIDE  
FILM PREVIEWS DEBBIE HARRY AT THE CONCERT HALL LIVE/DEMO REVIEWS

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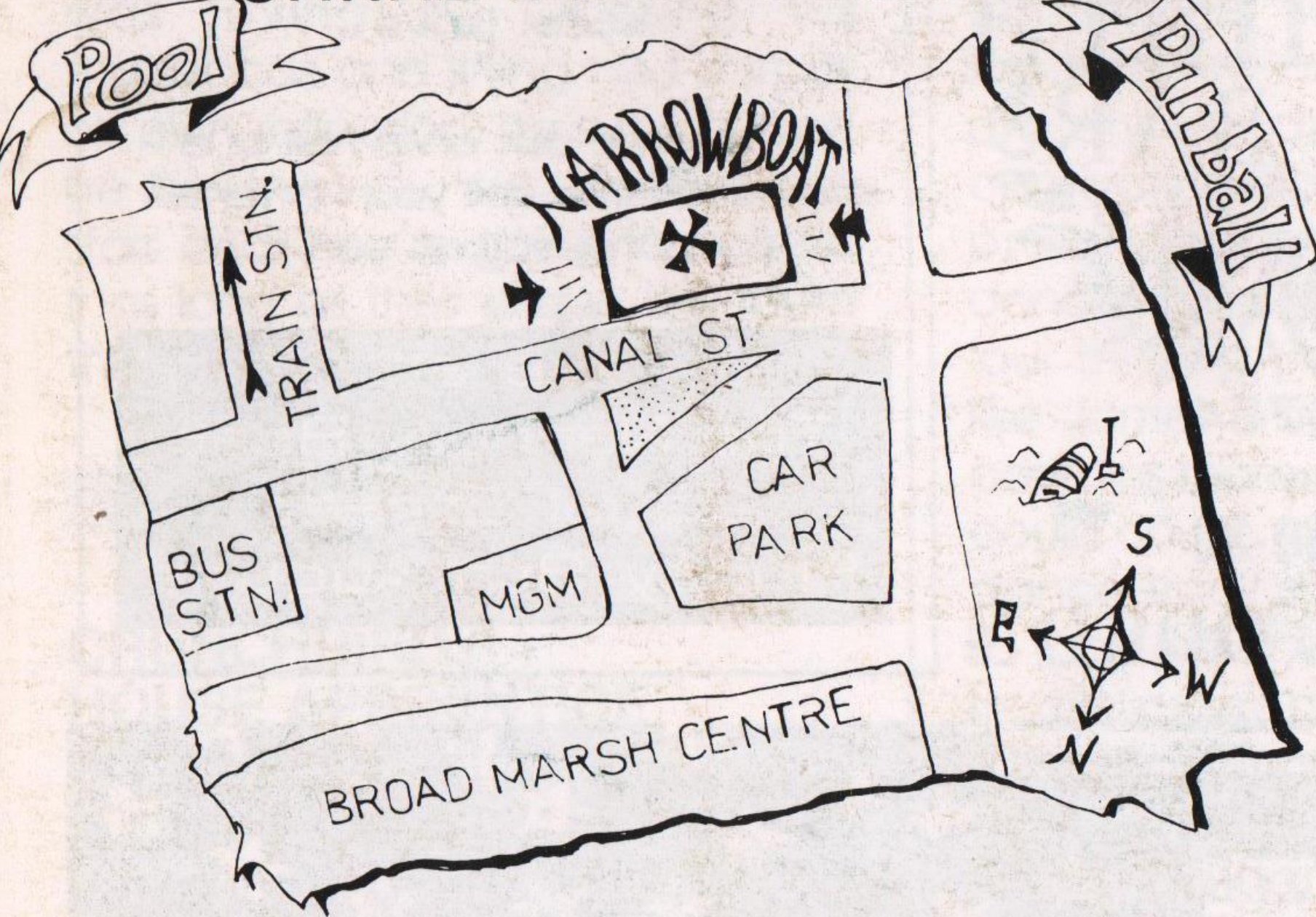
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## hello!

Welcome to issue five of the ever improving, ever expanding *Overall There Is A Smell of Fried Onions*.

This month we have expanded to 12 pages and have two colours. We have begun to include information on film in addition to music. Please feel free to write with your ideas as to how we can further improve the magazine.

Indeed please feel free to lighten up our dull and dreary lives with letters on any subject. We may even print some of them and then you can join us on this rollercoaster ride towards fame and fortune.

**BIG NEWS - on the 22nd of August the Overall organisation presents the *Ozric Tentacles* at the Marcus Garvey Centre.**

We very much hope that you will enjoy this first 'Overall Experience' which will be the first of many. Tickets are on sale at all usual agents.

Overall is published by Paul and Stephen.

Design by Hog

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# THUNDERBIRDS



This month Overall starts a regular film review and preview column. To begin Caroline Hennigan goes joyriding with *Thelma & Louise*.

Forget serial killers. Forget psychotic husbands. Tell Dr. Lecter to go and take a running jump; the girls are back in town and they just wanna have fun.

Leave roller coaster terror and things that go splat in the dark to the children- the film of the summer for grown ups is undoubtedly *Thelma and Louise*. Women will love it (and if you don't have you thought about hormone replacement?) As for men, well, it's certainly a new yardstick to judge them by- and the ones who don't like it can join the dubious ranks of the men who actually enjoy *Nine And A Half Weeks*!

For a movie which is about a hen party for 2 which takes to the road; sex, drink, guns, rock & roll - on wheels - I wasn't expecting such a good natured and generous feminist film. A lot of critics (male, naturelement) dismissed it as a 'manhating' 'revenge' movie, and so I was half expecting to see two women crazed with penis envy, marauding the Southern States, gunning down chauvinists: "Hey wise-guy was that a wolf-whistle? Bang, splat - that'll teach you to sexually harass me, asshole!" Thankfully, the film is more subtle than that. (Although let's face it - the critics may have a point-such a role model is not altogether unattractive!) But to make a film merely about women changing roles with and stalking and victimizing men would be crude, and *Thelma & Louise* is not. What the film does do is to substitute strong women for macho men in a remarkably restrained and humorous way.

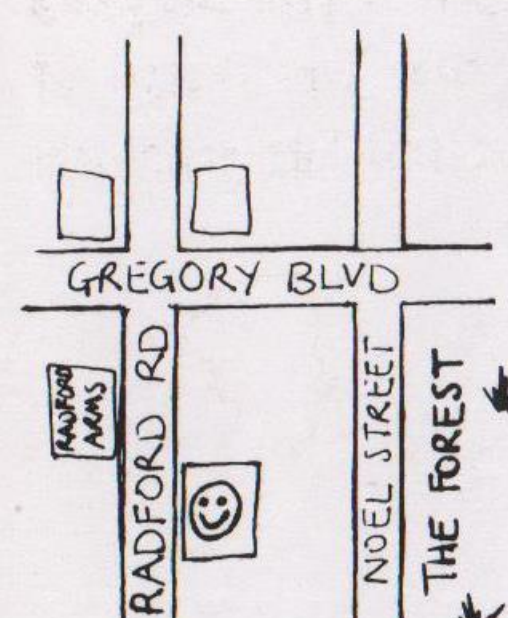
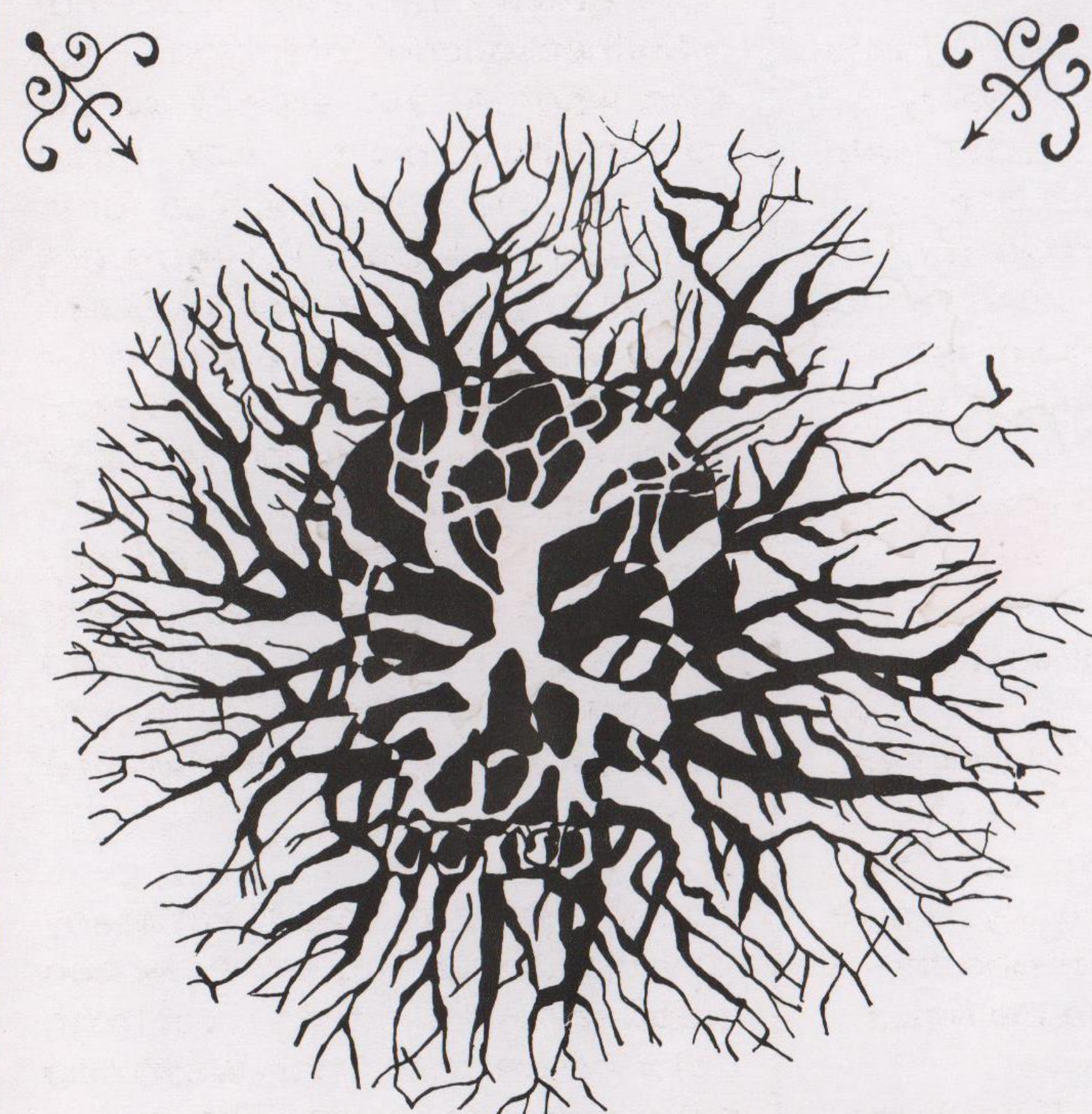
True, the men featured in the film are not very nice 'types', in fact it would be embarrassing to have to admit to belonging to the same species as most of them. But then what, pray, are women in your average Hollywood movie? Hookers, cyphers or victims, and count yourself lucky if you're alive at the end of the film! The body count in *Thelma & Louise* is one. It may make fun of some of its' men- but it certainly doesn't hate them. It's exhilarating and liberating and go and see it. A mistresspiece.

Meanwhile another formidable Louise takes to another screen, i.e., Madonna L. Ciccone in *Bed With Madonna*. This expensive little home movie of the Blonde Ambition World Tour was directed by child prodigy Alek Keshishian (26) who managed to wrestle total control and final cut out of the hands of the blonde/brunette/whatever bombshell. For this extraordinary act of bravery alone he deserves some kind of Oscar - Best directing of a superstar's ego, perhaps? And it just goes to show what an old fashioned, masterful, man-loving girl she is at heart. Exhibitionism, oral sex, masturbation, homosexuality, prayer meetings- it's all there- and that's just in the adverts before the film...!

First there was Clarke, then Bruce, then Dick and now this summer's superhero is Robin- Mr. Hood, that is, and he does actually wear one - a sort of medieval anorak. Now whether you can stomach Kevin Costner (*Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves*) buckling his swash in Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire, in fact everywhere except Nottingham - there weren't enough trees near

the Broad Marsh Centre- depends largely on whether or not Kev. is your cup of tea. Personally, I find him about as attractive as a cup of, well it rhymes with tea. However just the thought of Mr. Squeaky - Clean - American -Dream in green hosiery (which it turns out he doesn't even wear, the chicken) and sporting a full quiver, is so perverse it's worth a full quid of anyone's money. We have a pair of the green tights Kevin never actually wore to give to the person who can spot anyone with an accent approaching Nottingham's, no better make that a Northern accent (of England). But then what do you expect for £55 million these days? Box office takings have been good so far in America- the poor it seems are happy to give their money to rich old Warner Bros. Ironic, eh? Also this month watch out for *Edward Scissorhands*, a weird and whimsical tale about a Goth with very sharp fingernails. Starring - the luminously lovely and in lurve- Johnny Depp (twit in German, apparently) and Winona (untranslatable - even into English) Ryder. It's definitely worth a look-in.

It's Summer Sayles time at Broadway Cinema during August. American independent filmmaker, socialist, actor (move over Orson Wells) and p/t renaissance man *John Sayles* pops into Nottingham on August 27th- and watch out for his movies throughout the month.



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## Things that make you go hmmm

Once again the vinyl and cassette output of some OK bands gets the Overall scrutineer all steamed up.

### PAPA BRITTLE

Max Discrimination System (UFP)

Four years on and a century of gigs later Papa Brittle are one of those bands that don't fit into anyone's category system. Unlike others who adapt their style to suit the latest urge of on-campus consumers, this Basingstoke funk phenomenon have already invented their own category of dance music. They call it the Urban Sound or U-Funk Power. From the moment the first track roars into life, it is obvious that they are not in the student/raver crossover market. For a start they have something to say about the state of the world although the airheads may possibly cock an ear to the soulful wizardry of singer Lloyd Sparks. Papa Brittle are not building a house. It's something bigger. Papa Brittle are building a city.

### LAKE

R!!S!! (No Fans Records)  
Double LP

This label is a bit of an in joke, since it was released as a ridiculously limited edition of only five hundred copies. If there were such a thing as a musical Tate Gallery (and come to think of it there ought to be) 'Lake' would be on a turntable on a pedestal in the foyer. Rich pickings for ambience samplers, instruments include penny whistle, plastic bag, washing machine, reed organ, shakuhachi, glockenspiel, oven tray, violin, clockwork motor, classical guitar, paintpots and coffee tin.

REVENGE OF THE CARROTS. Rustig!  
7" (Konkurrel).

Scorching acid thrash from this group of Netherlanders with brilliantly distorted guitars that sound like they hate dance music. Pull hundreds on the continent so there should be at least fifty-five people turn up to see them play The Yorker on August 1st.

### SUBLIMINAL

Demo

In which the separate individual elements may bring to mind "influences" but as a whole "Subliminal" are quite unique. Passionate vocals, luscious guitar licks and restrained programming soak up any elements of clinicism normally associated with drum machines and computers.

### GREEDSVILLE

A life in the day of...

Four track sampler of gently rocking ballads that has already earned this Northumberland band a few gigs in town. My favourite is "New Year" with its eerie melody, peaceful sentiment and Gulf coverage sample conclusion.

### A: UNTITLED 7"

(Any Old Records)

Live recording from the mysterious band who every time they perform bill themselves under a different name - always beginning with an "A". There can be anything from two to fifteen members. This piece of anarcho-amorphic obscurity which prompted Selectadisc to invent a new category - Ambient Hardcore - features twelve of the conspirators. Listed around the label are twenty names beginning with "A", under none of which have they ever appeared.

### classifieds

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## Parallel Lives ?



**D**ie young, stay pretty or fade away and radiate? Life moves on for us all - Gillian Bates checks out where Debbie Harry and her legions of fans are at.

Deborah (nee Debbie) Harry flounced onto the stage wearing a pale green jacket, removed after two numbers, to reveal a black bodice thingy and what looked like baggy cycle shorts. Occasionally, she half-heartedly cracked a huge leather whip at members of the band, including her ex (present?) boyfriend and former Blondie pal Chris Stein.

My mate Sue and I wanted to get a load of the Wrinkles but unfortunately we were trapped in our seats at the back of the second tier - and she looked pretty good from there.

Vision was, however, frequently impaired by the illumination of the whole of the Concert Hall by football stadium type lights. These left the audience blinking in the glare and shielding their eyes to stop contact lenses burning out.

The problem with the show wasn't really Deborah - after all these years she still has this VOICE that exactly recalls those late 70s hits.

The problem was the audience. Upwardly mobile 40, nay 50 somethings, whom I would have

expected to be getting on down to Englebert Humperdink when he appears in a few months time.

Of course! This lot were in their twenties when Blondie burst on to the scene with Denis - "Doobie Doo, I'm in love with you..." (not included in this concert). They had come to recapture their youth and sing along to those odd lyrics of lovelorn love affairs and petty romance. ("oh I can't control myself").

To this end the Lady didn't disappoint. Belting through the hits, scarcely pausing for breath except for another effortful thrash of that long leather whip.

She dances like someone really drunk at a late night party (lots of waving of arms but keeping the head still for safety reasons) and sometimes coming on a bit sexy-like to the boys (men) in the band. The young female backing singer, at the rear of the stage, she completely ignored.

At the end came a break with tradition - two non Blondie / Harry rock songs (Sue said one was ZZ Top and the other may have been Deep Purple) which she belted out with a rare genuine energy. Pity she had to read the words off bits of paper...

If I were you, Deborah, I'd forget about the whip.

Royal Concert Hall. July 14th.



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## THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW

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Wednesdays in the Dive Bar Jazz Party  
Thursdays The Swinging Affair  
see Gig Guide  
Fridays Clubbed To Death  
DJ Martin (The Garage, Club Job) 10.30-2.00am, £1.50  
Saturdays Lunch: Beyond The Valley of Clubbed to Death  
Night: Fish Fry  
DJ Pablo 10.30-2.00am, £1.50

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**thursday 1st**

**SEVEN LITTLE SISTERS** Hearty Goodfellow  
**SCHEME** The Britannia  
**ZEDD** Old Angel  
**CHERRY FOREVER** Formerly Ram Shavi  
 Narrow Boat

**REVENGE OF THE CARROTS** The Yorker  
**SIRIUS LIGHTS** £2.50/£2

**PETER BOAM BAND** Salutation

**friday 2nd**

**STEAM KITTENS** Old Angel  
**COLIN STAPLES** Britannia  
**BASTARD SONS** Hearty Goodfellow  
**THE PEPPERTREE** Narrow Boat  
**BURLESQUE** The Yorker  
**THE GIFTHORSE** Running Horse

**saturday 3rd**

**SUNSPELL** Britannia  
**DITCH + SUPPORT** Yorker  
**YAH - OOS** Narrow Boat  
**ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES** Old Angel  
**NAVIGATORS (W)** Lunch. Running Horse  
**DV8** Evening. Running Horse  
**SCUM PUPS** Leicester, Princess Charlotte

**sunday 4th**

**RIKKI MARTINEZ** Lunch. Running Horse  
**BADAXE** Evening. Running Horse  
**STONEY BATTER (W)** Lunch. Red Lion

**monday 5th**

**JAM SESSION (W)** Full PA. Running Horse  
**SEVENTIES REVIVAL NIGHT** Michael Isaacs  
**DRIVE LEATHERFACE** Sub Club double bill  
 Leicester. Princess Charlotte

**tuesday 6th**

**SILVER HEARTS** Old Angel  
**KELLY'S HEROES (F)** Britannia  
**SUGAR RAYS** Hearty Goodfellow  
**EARTH** Narrow Boat  
**HIGHFIELD BOYS** Running Horse  
**"METAL AT THE MANOR"** Manor Club  
 WITH DJ METAL MICKEY West Bridgford  
**DITCH THE BONES** Bobby Browns  
**JAM SESSION (W)** Wheatsheaf Inn

**wednesday 7th**

**CRY** Old Angel  
**DAVE MITCH** Hearty Goodfellow  
**THE ANGEL TRAIN** Narrow Boat  
**NAVIGATORS (W)** Red Lion

**thursday 8th**

**MARSHALL'S LAW** Hearty Goodfellow  
**PETER BOAM BAND** Old Angel  
**SPEEDBALL** £1. Salutation

**friday 9th**

**FILTHY RICH** Old Angel  
**SOLOMON** Sex, Funk & Rock & Roll  
 £1.50 Narrow Boat  
**STRANGER BLUE** Running Horse  
**MARSHALL'S LAW** Cucumara

**saturday 10th**

**KELLYS HEROES** Britannia  
**WOODLAND CREATURES** Narrow Boat  
**THE HEALERS** Running Horse

**sunday 11th**

**AIRSTREAM** Simon Eccles (Boys' Own) with  
 Andy Weatherall. Venus  
**HARRY AND THE CRABS** Running Horse

**tuesday 13th**

**F.L.A.** Old Angel

**SUDANESE WITCH HUNT** Electro Indie with  
 ORPHEUS guest Goths. Narrow Boat

**ABK** Running Horse

**HARRY AND THE CRABS** Bobby Browns

**wednesday 14th**

**TANTRUM** Old Angel  
**DITCH THE BONES** Narrow Boat  
**NICK TURNER & THE RENEGADES** Bobby Browns

**thursday 15th**

**PUSH** Hearty Goodfellow  
**FORSAKEN INNOCENTS** Old Angel  
**THE WAITING LIST** Green Party party N. Boat  
**SUBSTANDARD** Navigation

**friday 16th**

**THE TALL** Hearty Goodfellow  
**DAY TRIPPERS HUG** Narrow Boat  
**MY DOG HAS NO NOSE** Running Horse  
**BABA PAPA** Cucumara

**saturday 17th**

**SUGAR RAYS** Old Angel  
**BANGKOK SHAKES BAROQUE** Narrow Boat  
**ZERO OPTION** Running Horse

**sunday 18th**

**RIKKI MARTINEZ BAND** Lunch. R. Horse  
**HIT & RUN** Evening. Running Horse (tbc)

**tuesday 20th**

**THE DAISY CHAIN** £2.00 Bobby Browns  
**THE BUSH BABIES**  
**WAYWARD SONS** Narrow Boat  
**KIM'S BALLOON**  
**THE HEALERS** Running Horse  
**THE PEPPERTREET** Salutation

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**wednesday 21st**

**THE AVENUE** Narrow Boat

**thursday 22nd**

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**GREEDSVILLE** Hearty Goodfellow

**UNCLE SHAM** Soul. Narrow Boat

**POPPYFIELD FIVE** Indie. Salutation

**friday 23rd**

**WOODLAND CREATURES** Old Angel

**HEADBIRTHS** The Yorker  
**JOHNNY DANGEROUS**  
**ILLINOIS**

**SLEIGHT OF HAND** Narrow Boat

**MARCEL MARCEAU SOUND** Running Horse

**saturday 24th**

**JADED ARTZ** Heavy Rock. Narrow Boat

**ROOSTER** The Yorker

**HIGHFIELD BOYS** Running Horse

**sunday 25th**

**SPITTING FEATHERS** Lunch. Running Horse

**HARRY AND THE CRABS** Eve. R. Horse

**monday 26th**

**BEYOND THE OBVIOUS** Bank Holiday  
**RIKKI MARTINEZ BAND** All Dayer  
**MIDNIGHT POACHERS** Bands listed in order  
**FRED SMITH** of appearance. Bar - B - Q  
**THREE SECOND RULE** Running Horse

**BLUES BROTHERS PARTY** Black Orchid  
 WITH DJS  
 ROB 'RAWHIDE' SMITH  
 AND  
 JEFF 'GIMME SOME LOVIN' CLARK

**tuesday 27th**

**F.L.A.** Hearty Goodfellow

**DOROTHY'S CLOSET**

Funky Soul Pop.  
 Narrow Boat

**ABK** Running Horse

**BUSH BABIES** Bobby Browns

**wednesday 28th**

**THE AMAZING SCREAMING WILLIES** Narrow Boat  
**THE VARUKERS**

**SICK BOY FED** Bobby Browns  
**THE BONES**

**thursday 29th**

**ATOM GOD** Narrow Boat

**BRUISED 'N' USED** Salutation

**friday 30th**

**BASTARD SONS** Narrow Boat

**DOCTOR H** The Yorker

**STUMBLE BROTHERS** Running Horse

**saturday 31st**

**ZEDD** Old Angel

**BURLESQUE** Running horse

**CRYSTAL TRIP** Noise Indie / Dance  
 Narrow Boat

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**jazz - jazz - jazz**

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At Old Orleans you can see Morning  
 dance featuring Andy Scofin each  
 fortnight from Wednesday 7th. Spicely  
 Advice appear at the Old Castle  
 every Wednesday.

Roger Bird takes a break from The Bell  
 to appaer at Old Orleans every  
 Thursday. The Gary Patter Trio play  
 Bobby Browns on Wednesday 21st  
 whilst The Jazz Juniors begin a run  
 playing every saturday at Perry's Wine  
 Bar.

The streets have recently seen errant  
 members of Swinging Affair busking  
 whilst on holiday from the Old Angel  
 jazz breakfast. They still appear every  
 Wednesday night in Harry Doom's Dive  
 Bar at The Hearty Goodfellow. Their  
 live LP, the Positive Side is released this  
 month.

Jazz fans can move on from the  
 hearty to the Cookie Club for Bop.  
 Look & Listen with dj Pablo who still  
 serves up the platters for Fish Fry every  
 Saturday at the Hearty. Tony Cofie  
 keeps up the interest at the Cookie  
 Club on mondays with his Quartet.  
 Tuesday night is Jazz night at The  
 Hippo with Gary Saunders'  
 contemporary latin jazz disco, or take  
 a Herbal tea in the restaurant with  
 Julie Schatzburger. Enjoy!

**festivals - festivals - festivals**

**2nd - 4th** - Green Man Festival,  
 Llandogog, Wales. **8th - 11th** Twisted  
 Trunk Llandogog, Wales. PO Box 23  
 Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan CF9 3YJ.  
**16th - 18th** Torpedo Town, Box B, 167  
 Fawcett Rd, Portsmouth, Hants./  
 Cissbury Ring, Worthing, Sussex 0903  
 214705. **17th** - Monsters of Rock,  
 Donnington Park. **22nd - 26th** - The  
 White Goddess, Rough Tor, Camelford,  
 Cornwall (Take your own water!). **25th**  
 - **26th** - Notting Hill Carnival, London;  
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## SUBLIMINAL Hearty Goodfellow

Once again in the reverse tardis of the Hearty. So big from the outside but alarmingly small inside. Fitting then that this tasteless concrete time traveller should play host to the posted up aural photo' album, known as Subliminal, tonight.

Imagine a bassist of unimaginable preciseness playing robotic repetitive mantra-esque bassline sounding strangely lost in his own private Joy Division/Cure inspired time bubble. A guitarist hunched, fringe flowing over his distantly chiming instrument, caught in a cyclic 'Cocteau's' timezone. To this add a pixie skipping singer warbling in a post-punk sobriety. The end result is it seems a pretty standard early eighties doom and gloom. Potentially the end result could be a collection, an averaging out of the sound of the eighties post-punk era; not the spark, the power; an overall bland image. But there's a twist (isn't there always?). The rhythms are supplied by both drum machine and looped samples. A possibility of a more interesting angle then? Perhaps a powerhouse of sub-rave dynamics or any industrial techno sonic attack? Perhaps not ironically the Subliminal approach to the sampler appears to be the same as that of their other instruments. Sure the loops are dancey but in a predictable sense. In the way that the Primal Scream 'Loaded' rhythm appears to be everywhere, haunting you in the most unimaginably bland way, so too does Subliminal's rhythm, politely limited. Whereas the innovators of the sounds which plague this band were able to leap mountains, Subliminal are only capable of skipping onto the kerb of the pedestrian path in an embarrassed motion leaving behind a ghost of an image of yesterday and today. But perhaps this is the point of Subliminal.

## TONY CROSBY'S STRANGER BLUE Running Horse

Devotees of rythm and blues can rest secure in the knowledge that it is alive and well in one of Nottingham's premiere pub venues. A capacity patronage revelled in a microcosm of good ale good company and good music, this evening featuring Stranger Blue so called because "Not all the numbers are strictly blues. I want to be able to explore the parameters." Tony Crosby left school at the age of fourteen and became a musician. He switched from piano accordion to guitar because he was, "Embarrassed to be seen walking around with it."

Tony is a master articulator of the blues guitar, and his own material, shortly to be released on cassette, resides in an area as yet not totally ramified amongst the followers of the blues: yet during his performance he offers an ample contrast of using the existing structures of jazz, blues and African Music to create a unique blend that is a stranger blues indeed.

## SOLOMON Narrow Boat

As the long cold summer of 1991 gradually narrows the once wide vision of the rave scene into a strict regime of ins and outs, dos and don'ts of the like not seen since the new romantics were considered tasteful and the Face magazine was almost useful. As Nottingham's self assuredly cool people tune into the right on friendly fascism of elitist purism- the hardest subsonic bass on the dancefloor or the even heavier guitar on the grungefloor. There have been a few apparently unhip people funk up rock music, rocking out the funk, storming the floor with their hybrid sounds. In case you hadn't noticed superbud is back. This

however isn't a fashion statement of the 70s revisited, this is a 90s aggravating version.

Solomon are one of the latest Nottingham bands playing their parliafunkideliathang to the ever growing audience. Solomon are perhaps the most bass heavy bootsidelic groove drive of the scene. Sure there is an old fashioned rockism in the sound. Mixing it with the funkier rhythm section and the coolest chicken grease rhythm guitarist who probably calls his instrument an axe. Just a little too Metallica, but thankfully this element is kept to the tasteful minimum. Vocals are mainly chants urging you to shut up and dance and, surprisingly for Nottingham, people take notice and start to groove in their own self conscious way. At times I'm reminded of the better moments of Tackhead, at other times memories of 'no-wave' funkies Defunkt. Not memories in a safe nostalgic way, but an inside knowledge that once again live music is becoming vibrant. If you think it all seems a bit like Faith No More or Extremethen I suggest you open both ears but if you want a music with dancability and real energy you'd do worse than check out the cross over powerhouse of Solomon.

## WEIRDBEARD / JELLYBABY The Old Angel

Bored of the word 'funk' yet? In the week that sees the release of thrash funk old hands Killing Floors, eponymous debut L.P., the ever imminent release of funkcoredelic supremoes Crunchbird's single and the dynamic arrival of sex-funkers Solomon it would seem that the category of the moment is a four letter word beginning with 'F'. Cynics and the otherwise ignorant would use the words 'bandwagon' or 'gravytrain' to summarise this or apparently any new musical express (sic!). Me, I

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# fried alive

prefer to think of a healthy scene sharing similar interests. Weirdbeard, I was told, were merely a student band in the most derogatory sense of the word. At first sight of both the audience and band this description would appear to be accurate and astute. Musically however they hit a mighty if predictable groove which leans more towards the Charlatans than the heavier end of the new funk. Spiced with a cliquey humour the band share their in joke at one point by supplying the audience with whistles, the result a deafening screech as excited punters tested their lung capacities, blowing hard and even, god forbid, jumping up and down. So this is what students do at gigs, dance? Shocked? I nearly choked on my whistle. Suddenly a euphoric atmosphere swept the echoing ceilings of The Angel until Weirdbeard's huffing and puffing singer brought me back to the beer soaked floor with more than a mere chuckle.

Most singers are embarrassed by the mirror hanging on the wall behind the stage. Catching sight of yourself in the mirror reduces the situation to the ridiculous pathos that it really is. Friends watching you perform! But this singer, he was loving it, tossing his marraccas and lifting his t-shirt at his own reflection, he's a star and he believes it. Weirdbeard are stars and they're going to believe it as long as their clique lets them think it.

## CRUNCHBIRD / HOUSE APPRENTICE Hearty Goodfellow

Imagine sitting at home watching your favorite soap when suddenly a blast of vanilla flavoured smoke emits from your TV set. When it clears you see two space aliens standing at a pair of electronic keyboards. There is a chirping

sound from the hi-fi. There is a cry of "more smoke" from behind settee and you turn to find an audience has also materialised. You have a full house. Before you can say 'would anyone like a cup of tea?' there is a peal of thunder and the rumble of an earthquake. You notice that your speakers have grown out of all proportion to room. Two thousand watts of extra sensory sound washes over you. You have never heard of house music so you don't know what to do. You are a soapy couch potato so you don't know that dancing is the only thing that will save you. Your metabolism begins to overload. Your living room melts. You melt. The last thing you perceive is the call of the Watu Watu Superbird.

The smoke clears and there is an atmosphere of expectation as the audience wait to see where the path of funkcoredelia will lead us next. Cool and confident Crunchbird kick into action with "United Sound of Crunch" a typical slice of where they are at, what to expect and how good they are at doing it. It is the beginning of a tight and smooth flowing set, all the songs linked by entertaining samples, while the band prove that they take their music but not themselves seriously. The self mockery in "Freak our Nation" is closely underscored by a captivating ability to produced a prolonged and of course funky dance music. What is described as 'our thrash number' sounds more like James Brown. "Skimtrat Disco" contains more influences than you could count, samples suggesting a dance track suddenly giving way to rock guitar which in turn breaks in to crunching funk. During "Cosmophobia" guitarist Nick looks so nonchalant for so long, like he hates the dance-beat bits, but actually he's keeping a sharp eye on the rythm section until he turns, drops his head and takes the lead with perfect grace and timing. "Shark Funk" ends a damn fine set; it is five minutes before two am and

the whole audience is still here way after its collective bed time, apparently held spell bound by a night which seemed to define all the good things happening around here musically. Today The Hearty, tomorrow the Garvey?

## FRED SMITH The Yorker

After two years of being just another boring pub The Yorker rocks again. Amid a greatly improved atmosphere, a full house saw Fred Smith work solidly through their unique and paradoxical set. Unique because no-one else is doing this sort of thing, paradoxical because there are so many different styles and influences that everybody else has already done. From the opening 'Dangly Dingbats', a funfair ground frolic, to the quick cascading blues guitar of the demanded encore, it is difficult to know where Fred Smith *aren't* coming from. An aspiring Nik Turner, Al on Sax can sound a melancholy Mars in grooving contrast to Fran's 'Rip-rig' like vocal Venus. Raoul ("I didn't practice until my fingers bled just to play downstairs at Rock City.") on bass keeps a smiling rhythm, in fact each member of the band individually extols the virtues of rhythm in a conglomeration of jazz, ska, funk and blues, the pop potential especially apparent on 'Seahorses'.

Fred Smith can sound like Elvis Costello and the Attractions one moment, and Gong the next. Brilliant and Fun.

*If you think your band is worthy of review, invite us to your gig. We are happy to attend gigs to write reviews and we are happy to accept reviews sent to us. Call us on 0602 240351*

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