

ALTERNATIVE SOUNDS



IGGY POP

20p

SQUAD



URGE

ETC, ETC, ETC,

CHART 4

1. SPECIALS - GANGSTERS (2 TONE)
2. DAMNED - LOVE SONG (CHISWICK)
3. TUBEWAY ARMY - ARE FRIENDS ELECTRIC (BEGGARS BANQUET)
- 3½. STIFF LITTLE FINGERS - GOTTA GETTAWAY (ROUGH TRADE)
4. CLASH - COST OF LIVING EP. (CBS)
5. VARIOUS - BATTLE OF THE BANDS (GOOD VIBES)
6. CASH PUSSIES - 99% IS SHIT (THE LABEL)
7. SKIDS - MASQUERADE (VIRGIN)
8. WAYNE COUNTY + ELECTRIC CHAIRS - BERLIN (SAFARI)
9. THE PACK - BRAVE NEW SOLDIERS (SS LABEL)
10. KLEENEX - YOU (ROUGH TRADE)

Chart supplied by

John 'Flash' Coles from Virgin Records

Welcome to another issue, thanks for everyone's help again. Keep sending Articles/letters/news of gigs to me at this address →

Martin
143 Moat ave.
Coventry.



AND NOW -

GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS...

or phone

Debbie on
cov. 610305

* WE NOW SELL OUR FAB MAG IN THESE STORES -

WEDGE, HIGH STREET, COVENTRY. VIRGIN RECORDS, CITY ARCADE, COVENTRY.
MUSIC CENTRE, (BY THE ODEON), COVENTRY. SOUNDS CENTRE, CLAY LANE, COVENTRY.
JILL HANSONS, THE PRECINCT, COVENTRY.
WARWICK UNIVERSITY - RECORD SHOP.
OTHER BRANCH, LEAMINGTON.
VICKYS' RECORDS, RUGBY.

IS THERE ONE NEAR YOU? IF NOT YOU CAN GET THEM BY POST, FROM ME FOR 20p + 10p POSTAGE (OR LARGE SAE.)

BACK ISSUES - No. 1, NONE LEFT, No. 2, LOTS LEFT, No. 3, SOME LEFT.

* YOU PROBABLY GOT A FREE STICKER WITH THIS ISSUE. STICK IT IN A PROMINANT PLACE. (I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOUR IMAGINATION).

* AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS WITH A 2" ONE!

AN **AS** BADGE FOR ONLY 15p. WRITE TO ME WITH 15p + SAE.

JUNE GIGS

- SAT. 2nd - LOVE AND KISSES...B'HAM UNIVERSITY
 WED. 6th - VIETNAMESE BABIES / D.S. BAND...CLIMAX, COV.
 WED. 6th - X-CERTS / TARGETS...CROWN HOTEL, LEAMINGTON
 THUR. 7th - STIFF LITTLE FINGERS...TIFFANYS, COV.
 FRI. 8th - THE E.C.G.'s...THE PLOUGH, COV.
 TUES. 12th - SUBTERRANEANS...HOPE AND ANCHOR, COV.
 SAT. 16th - LOVE AND KISSES...HEATH HOTEL, COV.
 SAT. 23rd - THE E.C.G.'s...HEATH HOTEL, COV.
 WED. JULY 4th - TARGETS...DOLPHIN, COV.

let us know of any gigs in the area at least 5 days before the end of the month.

A NOTE - We haven't got a contact with anyone in the Bedworth/Nuneaton area - Someone please write to us!

Hello Mart,

Ta for the copy of 'A.S.'. I enclose a few copies of 'Times Up' to pin on your friends. As you'll see it isn't about Kingston - its about Manchester, which is where I come from and where my heart is. The Manchester 'scene' is run by a lot of poseurs from the Factory and assorted Buzzcocks/Fall etc. liggers. The 'official' fanzine is called 'City fun' and is shit, and reads like Paul Morley wrote it. Not that Kingston hasn't got any thing going for it - there are a few good local bands - (Ack-Ack, The Wardens, Cardiac Arrest) but I'm not part of Kingston, I'm just staying here for a while.

I thought your fanzine was fucking great, with all the coverage for local bands. How do you get people like record shops and that to advertise in it? All the ones I went into just laughed and asked what 'new wave' was. One bone to pick though, with 'Chris', who sneered at the Anti-Nazi gig. (issue 2). Yeah, rhetoric is boring maaaaan! but two weeks ago I was selling 'T.U.' outside a (rare) gig in Kingston when I got creamed by a few chaps from our local NF branch (very big and very respectable in Kingston) for being a 'punk' and a 'degenerate' and a 'nigger lover' (I had a 'front line' badge on) and then a reggae gig in town got stopped because of 4 or 5 hoax bomb threats. The NF + the filth are big buddies in Kingston. Your mate Chris ought to have his balls creamed over the pavement a few times before he starts gobbing off about fighting the NF being boring, MAAAAN! silly cunt.

There wont be a second issue of 'T.U.' unfortunately because I managed to sell very few copies and I put all the money up myself, not to mention writing the bleeder myself, but one issue's better than none at all. Hope yours keeps going.

cheers, Colin Byrne,
'Times up' fanzine.

Dear Dill,

DIGITAL DINOSAURS

Thank you for publishing our article in no. 3. Best wishes and luck with the venture, each subsequent issue seems about 15% better than the one before. I will try to get a tape of us to you one of these days it seems only fair. (to follow up that publicity by the way we are working on a marriage of at least one member to Britt Eckland, but we probably haven't got enough money yet to interest her!)

We would very much like to be included in your bands index though we rarely play gigs due in part to location of members, but also to the fact that no-one offers, and something like the index would at least let people know that we were around. However could it be stressed that though we have access to a P.A., we have transport problems, so would rather use a 'house' P.A. (if such a thing exists), or the other bands' (if indeed they exist!).

Anyway these things can be sorted out if and when they arise: for now we are:

THE DIGITAL DINOSAURS
c/o Christopher Sidwell,
24 Kempley avenue,
Copsewood,
Coventry. Tel. cov. 457255

also - anyone know of a good drummer?

LETTERS

LET US

Hear from you.

WEDGE
CO-OPERATIVE

BOOKS - EXTENSIVE

RANGE of radical and student books, journals, pamphlets, posters and cards. CHEAP new remainder books, to buy and sell.

Fast and efficient ordering service, plus mail order.

CAFE -

Offers good wholesome food at reasonable prices plus a take-away service. It also acts as a meeting place and an information centre for local artistic and radical events, together with regular exhibitions of work by local artists.

13 HIGH ST. COVENTRY
TEL. 25634

COVENTRY CARNIVAL

AGAINST RACISM

Hearsal Comm
April 28th.

The show kicked off at about 2 pm. in front of a cross section audience but with a large smattering of punks and Rastas. After a few speeches SQUAD came on and launched into a punchy set which had a lot of energy despite a complete loss of sound halfway through, forcing the gig to be in two parts. They gave an inspired performance, the best songs being - 'Red alert', '8 pounds a week', and the hilarious 'Put a bag on your head! Unfortunately the show was spoiled by some mud throwing idiots and Gus finally flipped resulting in a threat never to play in Coventry again.

Next on were Belt and Braces, a good group with a powerful rythm section and a polystyrene type lead singer. they gave a long and very enjoyable set featuring a catchy song called - "Pigs can fly" (I think)!

Hard Top 22 played a very unspectacular reggae set which, frankly, bored me. Not to be forgotten were the other reggae band STEEL LOCKS, which played non stop throughout the whole concert on a seperate float, and turned in a better performance than Hard Top 22. Thats what I call stamina.

Riot Act played on a lorry during the march to the common.



writing
by
Alan Rider



photos
by
Mark.



THE Melody Maker

ROCK/FOLK CONTEST

Warwick University played host to one of the qualifying heats in the Melody Maker Rock/Folk competition. 22 bands each played 10 minute sets, with 3 judges from - MM, EMI, and Warwick students union.

These are the bands in order of appearance, with respective criticisms...

NOTHING YET

A punk style Led Zeppelin with Jethro Tull vocals. They had attempted to dress up in matching black chords - I wasn't impressed. The only song that stuck was "I don't care" ..boredom?

THE END

A Coventry 5 piece who I have already reviewed. This time their sound was much better. The first two songs "End of the line" and "Freeze me", reminded me of XTC, probably because of the organ. They ended with "City of the blind", a depressing, contorted song with excellent arrangement.

Watch out for THE END - a name for the future.

THE UNDERTAKERS

Pretty punks from Brum. All wearing black clothes (ha ha), the singer thought he was Bryan Ferry. They need burying.

BACCHUS

Sound like the 'Krishna' type albums you get asked for money in town on Saturday.

KILLER

Thin Lizzy meets the Spiders from Mars - a very boring straight rock band.

NECK+NECK

This group forgot about the audience - self indulgent rock again.

CLUNCH

Drums and synth. The synthesiser player cancelled his third number because his echo chamber packed up. A sigh of relief went up from the audience.

KNIGHT SERVICE

Heavy metal - they need to take off their armour and stick to their day jobs.

BALZ

Leather and denim clad hippy types, typical H.M. sound. Very tight and equally boring.

(By now I was questioning the "its only rock n roll" idea, the judges sat corpse like - in my eyes bored stiff).

EZRA POUND

3 piece gimmick band, describing their music as SNOB ROCK. Dressed as pseudo pub school lookalikes - the best of the rock boys.

RAMPART

Good folk rock. Quite pleasant music for market gardeners.

ARABIA

Tight melodic rock - an amateur Supertramp - ZZZZ!

LAUTREC

A tight disco/club band - above average white band.

JOHNNY REB + THE CONFEDERATES

Rock n roll would you believe it - was a good break for the judges.

PINK CADILLAC

Oh dear - just when it was getting better. Miss them when they play the City Centre again.

WITHERED MAN

Ted Nugent type H.M. (yawn?)

MENTAL BLOCK

Interesting lyrics - ie. "Introvert on the Metropolitan line". The music, although depressing, sounded like Patrick Fitzgerald with a backing band - probably because of the acoustic guitar. My second favourite band of the day.

BOUNDER

Another folk band - 3 good love songs. Unfortunately by now this was the emotion furthest from my thoughts.

VIXEN

I hated them. A tight rock band fronted by a woman aware of her sexuality, to say the least. - looked over to see the judges crossing their legs - I thought 'this band will get through'.

PARIS

From Brum, Simon/Garfunkel folkies. A 3 piece, originally a 5 piece but the drummer and bass player had the good sense to leave.

HIDE AWAY

Excellent vocalist but fronting boring rock band.

and finally...

MECHANIC

Professional rhythm/rockers. They posed well but breathed deeply when they left the stage. . . . cont. ↗

CONCLUSION

... After 8 hours of music. Well basically the event was shit, and the Melody Maker judges agreed with me. The final 3 places went to -

- 3rd..MENTAL BLOCK
- 2nd..LAUTREC
- 1st..VIXEN

I was very surprised that THE END didnt get a place. Mental Block and Lautrec deserved it, but not Vixen. Oh well a general NON EVENT.

ps. thanks to Dave, Mark and others who took over the pen and paper when I got fed up.

by Dill

GIGS
 GIGS
 GIGS

THE DEFENDANTS - Crown Hotel, Leamington... May 2nd

Its 60p each way on the bus from Coventry, which is a pity as they have some good groups on here, and this is going to prevent Cov. kids from coming over.

Its been 6 months since I last saw the DEFENDANTS ; they've now got a new drummer and are a tighter unit altogether. They also use their keyboards to greater effect these days.

When they began playing people started sitting down at the front! (not like at the Heath eh!), anyway they soon started dancing. Most of the DEFENDANTS numbers are sung by Dave, the lead guitarist, Gary (bass) sings on some of them, such as - 'Pleasure turns to pain', and on some of these Dave plays keyboards instead.

They played a selection of older stuff ie. 'Sur la plage', 'Early warning', 'Such a spiv' etc, and a lot of new stuff - 'It can make you smile', 'Moving into the space age', 'Time is slipping away' and others I didnt catch the titles of. They also did a cover of the Monkees 'I'm a believer'.

The DEFENDANTS are a fun, pop group. Some of the newer songs remind me of Elvis Costello's recent stuff. They have some potential classic singles, and at the rate they are developing, its possible they could well 'make it'.

I heard they are an 'unhip' band in Leamington at the moment, but there was a great response to the group tonight, and they played an encore to a fairly packed house.

Martin

GODS TOYS - The Lanch... April 30th

Today was the start of the Lanchester poly. events week, so we started off the evening with a mime artist, performing to David Bowie tunes, plus slide projections/effects etc. - different!

Now onto GODS TOYS - they are - DILL - VOCALS NICK - SYNTHESISER
 CHRIS - BASS LARRY LUPIN - GUITAR
 JOHN - DRUMS.

They played a good set tonight, but not their best. As usual they started with 'I stripped bare', and included the 'old favourites' such as 'Arty Natty', 'Package tours to heaven', 'Hates in love again' plus some new ones which sounded OK - 'Circus of fools', 'Young, bright + early' etc.

The set climaxed with their anthem - 'Gods Toys', including Larrys excellent choir boy rendition of "We are all Gods Toys" in the middle. The band were then called back for an encore (their first ever I think) where they did an 'improvised' reggae style number.

There was a packed audience tonight and GODS TOYS got a fairly warm response. They are a band worth seeing - but you've seen them by now havent you?

The evening carried on with a disco but I left for the last bus.

Martin..

RUSH , COV. THEATRE , May 9th

As I arrived a bit late I missed most of the support act 'Max Webster', but it didn't sound very special, so on to Rush.

The group opened (on time) with 'Anthem' and went on to play stuff off all their albums, including, 'Closer to the heart', '2112' (shortened version), etc, etc. Personally, I liked the material off their new album, 'Hemispheres' best. The title track was the best thing they did all evening.

Rush are one of the few old wave groups who actually bother to do regular tours and who play places like Cov. theatre. Live, the group are very good, assisted by a colourful light show and magnesium flashes for extra impact. In all, Rush gave their audience just what they wanted, guitar solos, drum solos etc, etc, etc. The only fault, perhaps, is that it all seemed too well planned, leaving no room for the unexpected.

HERE AND NOW, LEAMINGTON, May 11th

Here and Now should have been playing Warwick University tonight, but due to some trouble with the students' union they arranged a gig at the Crown Hotel, Leamington.

Despite the very short notice given, the crown was full up by 9, with a mixed selection of people including some punks (who asked if A.T.V. were playing). Here and Now play a unique form of freaky music similar to Hawkwind and Floyd, but more punk in outlook. All their gigs are free, with a collection at the end for money (so no-one can say they've been 'ripped off').

I have not heard most of the material that they played tonight, with the exceptions of 'Floating Anarchy radio' and 'What you see is what you are'. Everyone seemed to enjoy the group, and as they had changed venues at very short notice, this gave them very little time to set up their equipment, so they weren't at their best.

I really rate this group, it's not often you see a band playing just for the love of it. Perhaps people like the Clash and Jimmy Pursey, who claim to love their fans, could learn something from Here and Now.



'Bevs party' - Hope and Anchor - May 3rd.

Three groups doing gigs for Bev's party, they were - HOMICIDE, WHITE BOSS, and SOLID ACTION.

The first group came on at 9.00pm, they were Solid Action. This young groups first gig went down well - they sang seven numbers, five of their own, a Troggs number 'Wild thing', and 'Sick man blues' by the Goodies. 'Wild thing' went down well with the crowd.

White Boss came on shortly afterwards, with their hard hitting loud music and strong vocals, which I believe the crowd thoroughly enjoyed. They finished around 10pm, then there was a short interval while Bev thanked everyone for turning up and advised them to enjoy themselves (get pissed).

Homicide then took over and played several songs, including - 'Fuck off' - by far their best number. They are a bit short of material, but overall a pretty entertaining group.

A very good night out despite the police harrassment outside.

TV

P.S. (thanks to Andy Owen and Niall for getting me away from the screws).

Two of us went down to one of their rehearsals one night to sort out an interview. There has been a lot of rumours about SQUAD going round lately, we wanted to hear the other side...

The band was formed in Nov. '77 with the line up of - Sam -bass, Scully - guitar, Terry Hall - vocals, and Billy Little - drums. They've changed several times to the present line up of..Sam McNulty - bass, Danny Cunningham - guitar, Gus Chambers - vocals, Rob Hill - drums, which was finalised at christmas '78 when Rob joined. John Hill became their first manager about 3 months ago.

SQUAD

INTERVIEW

Us "Any of you been in any previous bands?"

ROB "Only me - Gold, Berlin, Exit, Much park avenue, then Squad"

Us "Who writes most of the music?"

SAM "Everybody"

Us "Influences?" they agree on Bowie, Lou Reed mainly...

DANNY "The Stones - and don't put a smirky comment behind it!"

Us "What about the last single 'Red alert'?"

SAM "It cost £440 to make 2,000 copies, including recording, it's sold out and we didn't get anything from it."

Us "Has it sold well in London etc.?"

SAM "Rough Trade took 1,000 and sold them all"

DANNY "We're not very proud of the single, but we were so naive and it came out so fresh in the studio, and we've learned now what to expect from ourselves in the future. We didn't know how to play in the studio but we went and did it."

SAM "We went without our holiday to pay for that single".

Us "Got any plans for any new records?"

SAM "We've recorded a demo at Birdsound studios in Warwick."

ROB "The engineer was a tit, he rubbed out $\frac{1}{2}$ the tracks, it was a country & western studio so he didn't know what we wanted."

SAM "We're gonna do a single ourselves again."

DANNY "What we need this time is a good producer."

GUS "We've gotta go back and mix the demo, so it might come out pretty good in the mix."

Us "What tracks are gonna be on it?"

SAM "Millionaires, Bells are ringing, We understand, and the flasher, a 4 track EP. a 12" record for better sound and it'll probably be sold for about £1.30."

Us "Whats this about not playing in Coventry again?"

GUS "Thats me innit..it's serious, we want to get the scene going with places to play and then there's tits that come along spoiling it for everybody, it happens at virtually all our gigs."

SAM "We tried to get the Heath going, I looked about a dozen bands in there, then Riot Act played there one night and there was a load of glasses flying, kids got their heads kicked in..Squad fans and Riot act fans fighting..so he cancelled everything."

DANNY "When Riot Act came on the scene we didn't mind them, we wanted to give them a support slot, but their fans didn't like us - 'Fuck Squad' written on the buses and all that."

ROB "The main problem is , too many people are coming along to gigs who are more interested in whats going on in the crowd than the band."

DANNY "What we hate is that those people are scaring the people who just want to come along and see us...at nearly every gig now there's fighting, you can see it from the stage and it makes you feel real sick."

GUS "Thats what happened at the carnival, there was loads of little kids and all this started happening with bottles and throwing mud, and I just got - a bit angry."

ROB "Most of them were just there for the trouble."

Us "Your not so popular in Cov. now."

GUS "I reckon a lot of the other groups take us as a joke band, and that's the image we don't wanna get. Everyone thinks that we fuck about a lot, and we do, but with the manager John, we've really come to our senses."

ROB "The rumour I heard is that Squads blown it, maybe we have in Coventry, after whats been said to the people of Cov. but they've helped to blow the group 'cos we can't play anywhere now."

DANNY "We've really gone down well in other parts of the country."

Us "Are you gonna be playing any more gigs in Coventry?"

SAM "Yeah, but not in the near future, where's there to play?, we tried the Heath but they blew it."

GUS "Everyone else can play there but we can't, were barred."

SAM "We've been lumped in with Riot Act."

DANNY "It's silly really when your in the same music. You have Teds v. punks, but when it's internal it's really bad."

GUS "That's what we're all against is fighting at the gigs."...

Us "We heard you got a lot of money when you played the Heath with Gods Toys."

SAM "I heard that rumour, £150 for us and we gave them £5. When we were there half got in for nothing and the other half only paid 1/2 price anyway - you can't make that much there.....

We've played Cov. over the last 2 years, every place, for no money most of the time, until John joined us we usually lost money."



SQUAD

From L. to R.

DANNY

ROB

GUS

SCULLY

(Now left band)

SAM

Us "Getting back to the music, a lot of people criticize you because you just play the same old stuff over and over again."

SAM "We're not popular 'cos we're trying to improve, we don't play really fast anymore."

ROB "The punk music, like the Jam, has become sophisticated and the accepted thing, the kids want something new now."

GUS "The punk singles from '76 are still classics, really good."

(They are disagreeing over their music here but don't seem to realise !)

GUS "We don't mean to change the music."

SAM "It's not contrived, we just write a new song that's a bit more complicated."

DANNY "What we are into is real variety on stage. With most bands all the songs sound the same. When we play people pick out our songs, as each one being a bit different."

SAM "Another thing - we get slagged for being sexist, they don't realise it's a joke, we're not into serious political slogans like Tom Robinson."

The interview starts to disintegrate now as they drift back to their practising, for a gig the next night at Oxford. They answered some of the things we wanted to know, not everything, anyway draw your own conclusions from the SQUAD...

Another interview by M+JB.



CAN YOU FEEL THE... URGE

BILLY : drums and percussion
KEV : synth. organ and prepared tapes
DAVE : vocals, stylo and radio
JOHN : guitar
JOHN : bass

It is not often that an original and exciting band goes unnoticed in Cov. but Urge have managed it ! They have been together for almost two years, with Kevin joining in January, but they have only begun to gather a small following. Of the original "new wave" (for want of a better label) bands in Cov. they were the most experimental and technical, now they are joined by bands like 'Gods Toys' and 'The End' and the growth in popularity of these 3 bands indicates that there is a receptive audience for this type of music now.

This 'type' of music being exciting without developing into a barrage of noise, being experimental without becoming introvert or obscure, and meaningful without preaching or becoming moralistic.

Urge are as hard to interview as they are to label :

Q. Do you think you are influenced by Ultravox ?

Various - "Ultravox ?", "I've never seen them", "I dont like them", "No-ones ever said that before !"

Q. How old are members of the band ?

Raucous laughter.

Other vitally important questions which the band skillfully avoided were :

About the type of music they enjoyed, whether or not they would like to be a 'Pop group', and the price of cheese. Despite intense interrogation by TOM none of the members of Urge would confess to being the leader of the group.

From the 'interview' I gained the impression that Urge feel that music is relative to the environment and atmosphere and feeling at the time, hence the imaginative and experimental nature of the music, it is probably because of this that Urge are accused of being a 'student' band. But none of the members are students and judging from the grunts from some of the members of the group they are not too partial to students.

In the past Urge have had their problems which they felt was usually due to a bad P.A. or insufficient time to soundcheck. Other things which they felt they had problems with were lack of visual image and lack of communication with the audience. Now they feel they are getting over to the audience and that where they do not communicate with the audience it is because there is no-one to communicate with. They would like to create a good visual image (I think they already do) but they feel that this is secondary to the music and so are quite happy as they are.

Judging from the tape I've recently heard they have condensed their music, making it more intense, unusual, original and disjointed and they leave the listener curiously disoriented. Urge is not a group which I could portray in an interview, it is definitely a group which needs to be seen to be believed !

BY DEBBIE



URGE LIVE GIG 19.5.79

CLOTHES - 4 in military black, smart shirts and trousers

- 1 in cricket strip, white, also very smart (Kraftwerk springs to mind)

PLACE - At a party at Warwick Uni. airport lounge.

TIME - approx. 11.30

TYPE OF MUSIC PLAYED - strange mutation of rock n roll, near to early Velvets thrashings, using noises rather than melodies to create emotional songs.

SET - IN SONG TITLE ORDER - set started out with tape of womans voice, straight into..

1. 'I found a reason', title repeated till end of song, music loud intense, interesting.
2. 'Vapour trails', mechanical funk, skeletal music with hypnotic beat.
3. 'Wavelength', changing tempo, disorientated rock n roll, lyrics concern (I think) the evil radio stations giving us too many choices.
4. 'Wet erasable', cacophony of sounds, noises leads into...
5. 'Ugly youth', intense noise - lowest part of set, similar style of music to 1st track.
6. 'look out', the nightmare starts properly as the Urge decapitate this song of children playing with machinery.
7. 'Away', hideous electric George Formby type song where white noise replaces ukelali.
8. 'Alienation', slower, softer, with haunting melody.
9. 'Outside interference', slightly punk, with helter skelter guitars.
10. 'Two way flex', is disjointed and the keyboards player looks like a wierdy.
11. 'The evacuation', fast rock n roll again.
12. 'Nuclear terrorist' is their projected single, heavy lyrics get swallowed in a happy 'borstal breakout' singalong - sinister fun.
13. The final number reminds me of 'Heroin' (L.Reed), the song builds up on a gallop then slides down on a menacing African beat.

The Urge do not go out with a bang but with a wimper. Two members and a radio are left in the end. The Urge finish their set leaving me cold and unstable.

CONCLUSION - The Urge are a nightmare and they will not do your thinking for you. I cannot put them in a box, go see them and try yourself.

The Urge are excellent.



Journalist - ART NOUVEAUX

THE WILD BOYS
HOMICIDE
THE CLIQUE

HEATH HOTEL
19th MAY



"LE CLIQUE, C'EST CHICI!"

THE CLIQUE

The Heath was packed when I arrived and I had to wriggle my way through a hot mass of bodies to reach the front. Clique were $\frac{1}{2}$ way through a number and were having sound trouble. My eyes were greeted by a startling red clad Caron - who proved herself to be a vast improvement on Cliques last vocalist (Gordana) and tonight proved to be much improved since her last (first) appearance at the Hope n Anchor on May 8th. Anyway 'Brain Dead', dedicated to Margaret Thatcher was the next song, vocals were clear and cutting, spat out with some credibility, and the guitarists were enthusiastic and competent - although someone informed me they were out of tune - I didn't notice. This band does tend to deal with slightly pretentious, almost didactic material, but it's music with guts and the energy of youth. 'Heroes', 'Third world war', are examples of this, and '3rd W.W.' frankly is too boring and too indulgent, why resort to injuring the audience with sneers? 'Looking back' is probably the most memorable and danceable of their songs. I'm sorry to say the rest of their music is unmemorable, too fast, monotonous and blurred, perhaps the Siouxsie parallels would be too easy to draw here - so I won't draw them.

Overall a good band with potential for more fun.

Patsy.



Ian + Ray

HOMICIDE

PETE - DRUMS
IAN - LEAD GUITAR
MEF - RYTHM GUITAR
RAY - VOCALS
STEVE - BASS

The Clique had hardly had time to leave the stage when Homicide came on. They did a heavy/punk set which seemed to go down OK. The songs that stood out tonight were - 'Acid', 'We're at war', '21' ("died too young"), and 'Genocide', which I thought was their best.

The set was marred by a break in the middle, caused by kids at the front mucking about.

Homicide have a powerful but plodding sound. What they do is OK, but it needs more variety in the set. I also reckon the singer (Ray), as the frontman, needs to put himself over more. But they are a new band and could easily sort these things out, anyway someone told me that night, they thought Homicide have - "Lots of potential...".

M.

THE WILD BOYS

VOCALS

RYTHM GUITAR

BASS GUITAR

-JOHNNY THOMPSON

- PHIL ATIO (ALIAS ROB LAPWORTH)

LEAD GUITAR

BACKING VOCALS

DRUMS - MUSCLES LYNCH

- MARC "BONK" EXTRA



Johnny

Just after 10pm the Wild Boys (Ex - Extras) started their set. Another new band which has been playing a lot lately.

They have a lot of material, fast songs which are played very well. The band kicked off with '1980's Teddy boy' ("were not punks, we're 1980's Teddy boys"), the other stuff I liked, or that stood out, was 'Last one of the boys', 'Wild boy blues' (a new song), the excellent 'We're only monsters' and even better 'Today or tommorrow', which Johnny announced as a possible single contender.

Their best songs are fast, powerful and catchy, and could well make great singles. To get a lot further I think that the Wild Boys should also vary their set a bit more, and perhaps improve their visual image. Otherwise, great, and the 'crowd' (there really was a crowd tonight) enjoyed them.

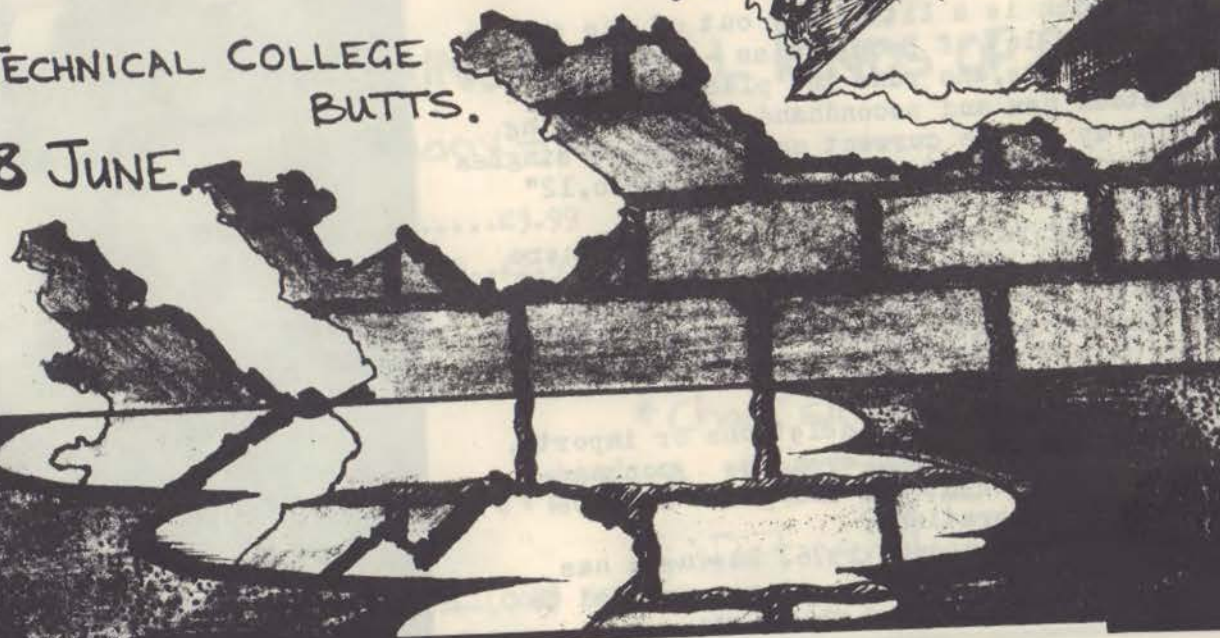
Overall, it was a good night, no trouble, and an opportunity to see 3 good local bands - it should happen more often.

by Mart.

EXHIBITION of
PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS
BY BRIAN ELLIS.

AT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BUTTS.

4-8 JUNE.



"LOOKING FOR A ^{VINYL} FIX"

(A TOUR OF COVENTRY'S RECORD HOPS)

JILL HANSONS. the Precinct

Jill Hansons used to be a joke, but since opening the upstairs in January this year they have become one of the best shops in Coventry. They sell punk, heavy rock, soul and funk, reggae, imports, 12" singles etc.

There is a 10% discount on lots of their albums. Downstairs are the chart records (a chart single costs 80p - remember this as we are comparing them). Jill Hansons is shut all day Thursday.

Thanks to happy, smiling, shop assistant Mandy for talking to us. (she loves her job).



VIRGIN RECORDS. 11 City Arcade

We talked to Tim and John here. Virgin records has been open for 6 years in Coventry. They stock everything here (except for brass bands) and are open 6 days a week.

As they are a chain store, it means that they can get most records but there are often delays 'cos they don't deal with the distributors direct.

A chart single costs 75p here. They also have discounts on the top 50 albums (about £1 off), plus various bargains in their 'cheap rack'.

This is the only shop in Coventry where they have headphones for you to listen to records first.

HITS, MISSES AND VINTAGE RECORDS. Far Gosford street.

A shop which is a little way out of the center so it's one a lot of people miss - their loss. I talked to Pete, who runs the place.

They stock new and secondhand records dating from 1954 up to the current charts. (chart singles cost 85p) including punk, rock n roll, disco, 12" singles etc.

They buy and part exchange records, but there is no set price - it depends on what it is and the quality. They also keep a 'wanted book' for people wanting specific, hard to get, items - they will try to get them and there is no extra charge for this.

A lot of the albums are deletions or imports, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the stock is new, and even the conhand albums are guaranteed (but the price must be taken into consideration).

The shop opened in June 1976. Business has gone quite well, so they have since expanded to upstairs, improved the shop front etc. ...



HMV. Hertford street

They have a large selection of albums, singles. Chart singles 75p. £1 off the top 20 albums. Otherwise expensive, and very little punk, rock n roll, reggae etc. A very commercial shop. eg. the shop assistants know nothing about music.

PAYNES. (by Pool Meadow)

89p single ! - avoid it. (discounts on very old singles they cant get rid of.)

SOUNDS CENTRE. Clay Lane.

A new shop with a fair variety, but a bit far from the centre of town.

THE DEPARTMENT STORES

OWENS. Broadgate

Chart single is 79p, there's 80p off the top 30 albums, plus reductions on other L.P.s. They sometimes have a bargain bin for singles.

WOOLIES. The Precinct

Single 84p, bargain bin 55p, some reductions on albums. Pathetic selection.

SMITHS. Hertford street

"If it isnt on the shelves we havent got it". (sometimes have 'sales').

BOOTS. Corporation street.

You don't go there DO YOU ?

SECOND HAND SHOPS

Lots of second hand shops sell a few albums. There are a few shops like this in Far Gosford street.

EXCHANGE AND MART. New Buildings.

They sell second hand singles and albums. The singles selection is pretty bad but you can find some good albums here. Singles cost 20p (they give you 5p for them), Albums vary - £1/£1.50/£2.00 so the price they give you varies (it wont be much).

You read this far? Well done. Well that's about it for Coventry, and please remember that record prices go up virtually every day so some of these prices may be wrong by now. Mart.

Hits Misses and Vintage Records



FANTASTIC BARGAINS IN ALL KINDS OF RECORDS

Just a few of the many -

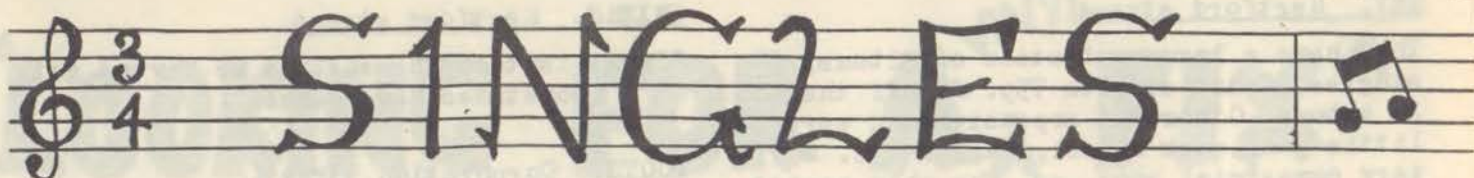
- E.L.O. - OUT OF THE BLUE (DOUBLE).....£3.99
- SEX PISTOLS - NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS..£2.99 (limited stock)
- IAN DURY - NEW BOOTS AND PANTIES.....£2.99
- MANY DELETED L.P.s.....£2.95

- * All Kinds of records from 1954 to 1979 in stock.
- * 10% off chart L.P.s with this add.
- * Chart singles 85p + Punk singles

THE RECORD SHOP WITH A DIFFERENCE!

142 FAR GOSFORD STREET, COVENTRY TEL.(COV) 58164

Part exchanges welcome or buy for cash.



SINGLES

THE RAINCOATS - FAIRYTALE IN THE SUPERMARKET (Rough Trade)

The Raincoats have made a classic debut 45, and I bet you haven't even heard it? They are the late '70's Velvet Underground. This song crashes along; the guitar, bass, drums seem to be working against each other yet they create a superb whole. Give it a few plays and you'll find it's catchy too. - an important song.

The B side contains 2 tracks, - 'In love' a slower song with almost spoken vocals, and great guitar work. And 'Adventures close to home', with Nico-esque vocals and offbeat drumming. Excellent.

They are not the Velvets - they are the Raincoats - find out for yourself.

KLEENEK - YOU/'U' (Rough Trade)

Another all girl band from Rough Trade. This is their second single, and shows some progression from the first. It's tighter played and is better produced.

'YOU' is the happy side, a fast(ish) song which is fairly repetitious and has powerful, heavy guitar work on it.

The other side 'U' is the angry side, starting off with a bass guitar intro, and then singing over another repetitious beat and 'squeaks' as backing vocals.

A good single, but I still can't understand half of what they are saying!

THE PIRHANAS - COLOURED MUSIC (Attrix)

This is a slower paced song attacking coloured vinyl. It's played well and is very catchy, with its cocky vocals. -

"The music is crappy,

but the colours are snappy"

It ends with saxophone backing, and singing - "Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh,

music is obsolete"

(just go to the HMV shop for proof.)

The other side 'Jilly' is faster, and is another bouncy, catchy song - pity it doesn't last very long.

(note. This record is available on black vinyl.)

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS - GOTTA GETTAWAY (Rigid Digits/Rough Trade)

This is a quite catchy song but isn't really up to the usual quality Fingers are capable of, in fact it's disappointing and very mediocre. However, as with their previous two singles, the B side 'Bloody Sunday' is as good as, if not better than the A side. With its fast attacking lyrics and rough voice of Jake Burns, together with some great guitar work, it makes this record worth buying. In my opinion 'Bloody Sunday' should have been the A side.

'Gotta getaway' seems to suggest Fingers are losing their hard, powerful approach to music which makes them so good, I hope not.

This review by ADOLF

TUBEWAY ARMY - ARE FRIENDS ELECTRIC? (Beggars Banquet)

This is a haunting, melodic tune from the 'Replicas' album. It's similar to the recent Ultravox stuff, but Tubeway Army don't go overboard on the synthesiser, leaving a more orthodox sound.

The B side 'We are so fragile', is an excellent track which is not on the L.P. In contrast to the 'A' side this is a shorter, faster song, almost disco influenced, with guitar crashing in after a short while. A futuristic pop song?



The Sound Centre (Coventry) Ltd.

Stockists of all leading makes of Guitars
Amplification and Percussion.

inc. Gibson, Fender, Ibanez, Music Man, Richkenacker, Yamaha, Guild, Antares, Peavey, Marshall, Ampex, Orange, Roland, Custom Sound, Caribros, Laney, Ovation, Buesman and many many others.

Drummers aren't left out in the cold here either: Ludwig, Premier, Beverly, Olympic, Maxxon, Hoshino, and Aria kits are all here, plus all the sticks, cymbals and spurs you could ever hope to find in one shop.

And don't forget our Disco Room!
Decks, lights and lots of effects.

Whichever wave you're riding -

it's all at: 98 CLAY LANE. COVENTRY
telephone: Coventry (0203) 457175.





ALBUMS



THE UNDERTONES - The Undertones (Sire)

Many new wave groups have survived or emerged out of the ruins of punk to establish themselves as the new mainstream commercial pop groups of the age. Top of the Pops isn't afraid of them any more, and maybe that's OK, I don't know. What I do know is that when it comes to pop music The Undertones are a cut above the rest. They've produced a scintillant first album like it was as easy as breathing. The Buzzcocks, with that famous string of hit singles, used to be this good. And so were the Who in their early days. The Undertones may be a pop group, but they've got all the joyful energy and creative drive that made the punk movement so good.

The Undertones formula is elusively simple and totally magical. They take simple and often naive statements about everyday life and the emotions we all experience and put them to straightforward chords and fast and steady rhythms. There's nothing complex about the Undertones. But their songs are intoxicating and irresistable, and timeless pop music. Rhythm guitar drives over the relentless beat of drums and bass, lead guitar carves in and out of that sound, with Fergal Sharkey warbling distinctive songs over the whole. There are 13 songs on this album, (including the current single 'Jimmy Jimmy'), and there's not a duff one among 'em. They'd all make hit singles. 'Family entertainment', 'Listening in', 'Runaround', 'If the kids don't like it', 'Here comes the summer', 'Male model', 'I gotta getta', are the best songs on the album. There's also a fine reworking of 'True confessions'. The whole album buzzes along with giddy rhythm and dazzling vibrancy.

This is a full price album, and it only lasts 30 mins. That makes it expensive and a rip off. But if you like The Undertones, then it's your money and your choice.

The Undertones deserve to be proud of this album. Anyway it's one of the best things I've heard so far this year.

Dean.

THE CURE - THREE IMAGINARY BOYS (Fiction)

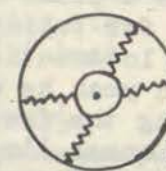
A good album from The Cure, which (in part) lives up to the promise of their debut single. The Cure have a cur(e)ious sound, which is certainly original. It's a low key, at times even laid back, tinny sound. There is a slight wierdness on some of the tracks. (reflected in the album's packaging). The Cure play danceable music with plenty of beat and catchy hook lines. Where this L.P. falls down a bit is that I get the impression that it was put out too quickly, and consequently some of the tracks just don't live up to the standard I know they can achieve.

The album starts with '10.15 saturday night', the B side of the first single, and a classic which you will have heard (of, at least). Then there's 'Accurracy', followed by the superb 'Grinding halt', the slower 'Another day', then 'Object', which is OK. Side 1 closes with 'Subway song', another slow, atmospheric track.

The second side starts with Hendrix's 'Foxy lady' (alright..), then there's the silly 'Meat hook', 'So what' (about consumerism), 'Fire in Cairo' - a great song, then 'Its not you', and finally the title track 'three imaginary boys', another good slow song.

Anyway, as I've said - a good album, but not a great album - buy it if you've got any money left after getting the Undertones L.P.

Martin



IG + Super IG : IGGY POP

RECORDINGS + LIVE

Jimmy Osterburg was born in Detroit, in the late 60's he was an Iguana - hence Iggy was born. He became a Stooge, made two L.P.s - 'The Stooges' + 'Funhouse' in 1969 and 1970 (both still around on W.E.A.) - heavy metal, drug influences, dark alley, red light shit. He got a reputation, got beaten up by audiences, beat himself up, jacked up and finally fucked up - and disappeared for a couple of years. 'Metallic KO' (on Skydog) helps illustrate the basis of this reputation, loudmouth, no manners Iggy harangues the audience at the final Stooges gig. Bowie stepped in to produce 'Raw power' in '73, nothing much happened - Iggy went off again recording bits and pieces only recently released - 'Kill City' (Radar LP), featuring re-recorded backing to the mid 70's Iggy vocals: 'Sick of you' (Bomp 45) + 'Gimme some skin' (Siamese 45). More sex, more drugs, more excess, until Bowie steps in. The story is well known from 'The Idiot' onwards, 'Lust for life' followed + 'TV eye' - the official live album of the 1977 tours of the U.S. and England. Many bootlegs appear also to be around of this period, the quality of which match the Bowie produced but rough 'TV eye' - 'Stowaway DOA' and 'Suck on this' (a double LP) are both German pressed. 'Iggy + Ziggy' is American. Most duplicate the same songs - different gigs. 'DOA' includes the Siamese single. Tracks of interest are a medley including '96 tears' on 'Iggy + Ziggy' and an outstanding version of 'I need somebody' on 'Suck on this'.

One of the most significant points to emerge from Iggy's recordings is his uniqueness and style - he transcends the musical styles of his LP.s - the Heavy metal of the first two albums - the electronics of 'The Idiot' - Iggy is Iggy - surviving the dire production of 'Raw Power' and the cassette like quality of the recording of 'Metallic KO'. The guy has a great voice - a soul singer. CUT ...

INTERLUDE : Birmingham Odeon - late 1977 - the second tour of the year, Bowie is absent, Iggy performs - amazes, but is ultimately restrained - Heavy rock. CUT ...

COVENTRY TIFFANY'S - May 10th.

The LP. may be 'New Values' but the live performance is nearer to the power of 'Metallic KO' - a real time warp. Iggy was arrogant, rude, offensive - limited in his between song raps - "Cocksuckers", his band were mediocre but it didn't matter - sure he upset a few people, but he was brilliant! Iggy was back walking on the edge as only he can. Iggy's got a body, he knows it, uses it, abuses it, and gave one of the most elegant views of an arse I've ever seen. Sorry - the music seems to have been forgotten - the band, as stated earlier, were alright, almost irrelevant, the performance was a classic - near enough indescribable. I can tell you they started with an instrumental, performed 'New values', 'Girls', 'I'm bored', 'Sister midnight', some oldies, 'I wanna be your dog', 'Dirt', 'Loose', 'Cock in my pocket' and even 'Louie Louie'! Iggy is a prima donna - but he needed the audience - he called them stupid for paying to see him - but ultimately, the guy for all his pig-headed loudmouthed honesty, paid back everything. Sure he didn't have to, and yeah he was only doing it for the money - but there is no escaping the fact that he put in one of the most powerful + energetic performances I've seen. Confused? Well you should have been there.

By STICKMAN.

CROWN HOTEL/LEAMINGTON... May 9th.

GIG

It's really a bit of a shame that Leamingtons only regular punk venue (every wednesday night) has to give shows to a band from Coventry - the headliners NO PLUG, and their support the SUBTERRANEANS from Kenilworth, but Leamington only has half a dozen real punk bands and most of them never actually seem to want to play gigs. Only the Shapes and Flak Off (who have just reformed) play in Leamington regularly nowadays, (the Defendants are considered a joke - just a cabaret band), and now the Shapes are pop stars they don't want to any more. So the gig scene in Leamington is bleak, with no plans for gigs outside the Crown, planned until late june. The only reason punk nights happen at the Crown is that a lot of money is made on the bar on such nights, and as far as the fat, middle aged, country and western fan who runs these nights is concerned, success is counted in pints sold, rather than quality of music.

THE SUBTERRANEANS

Kenilworths only known punk rock group bounded onto the stage, after Ron Shirt (No Plug vocalist) gave the band a big build up, and were given a sympathetic reception by the crowd. From the moment they took the stage they were in control. Comparisons with other bands such as the Mekons, Banshees and the Clash can be put forward, but any group that can make the old Archies song "Sugar, sugar" (the only non Sub. song) sound like a Velvets classic with Mark E. Smith (the Fall) on vocals, has my vote of approval. The first time they played the Crown (february) they did 10 songs in 45 minutes, this time they did 8 songs in 17 minutes - they have got a lot tighter!

Songs such as the 'Robot song', 'Failure' and 'Not one of the boys' have gone from being boringly slow plods to being fast, tight, highlights in a show which was a great surprise to everyone in the room and a delight to those who have seen them before.

If only there were more gigs available locally this band could go far.

By Andrew Acid-Gollie.

NO PLUG

NO PLUG have had a very rough ride from every side, dismissed as University punks, short haired hippies, middle class posers, they've had every kind of insult thrown at them. Having seen them before I was looking forward to tonight.

They got off to a rather mediocre start with 'Sade salad', then 'I fought the law' - better than the Clash do it, but not brilliant. The set doesn't really come alive until their cover of an old folk song 'Mathy Groves', which builds up and up until the climax when Ron Shirt charges into the audience flailing a genuine fencing foil (tipped), a brilliant interpretation. From here on they can do no wrong. Anti Heavy-metal song 'Cosmic waste' is dedicated to all those who've gone to see Rush in Coventry, and features an amazingly accurate guitar hero pisstake by Angel of joy. In fact the whole band throughout plays amazingly well and very tightly. Ron Shirt is a great vocalist, I've never seen anyone drum like Nredg Zbeakon, and bassist Curlie Brownlocks beats any so-called 'super star' bassists. The songs come thick and fast - 'Nothing to live for' (about an ex-revolutionary), 'Deviants lament' which started the show the first time I saw them, a reggae song called 'Ritual seduction', and the brilliant 'Amateur surgeon' a disco song in which Ron goes over the top with a hack-saw and false leg. Finally we get their version of 'Silent night' which they claim to have been doing long before anybody else, anyway their tune is far superior to the Dickies etc. They encored with 'T.S.G.' and 'Johnny B. goode' with a stage full of Subterraneans.

This was No Plugs last gig and they have had a hard time, but lets hope at last somebody will give them some credit for what they are - a really nice bunch of people whose only aim was to entertain, and tonight they did just that.

© offbeat schemes

LOVE AND KISSES

RUGBY

Name unfamiliar? Not for long - this exciting new band will BE 1979 and, despite the name, are destined for great things.

The group produce an original brand of new wave pop - high energy rock with strong, powerful music and unusual lyrics.

Although a seemingly run of the mill four-piece, (guitar, bass, drums and vocals) do not be deceived by initial appearance. The lead singer provides a new dimension in this dull world of pseudo Siouxsie/Harry/Pauline (Penetration) girl singers.

This woman is no Blondie/Banshee clone; this woman is UNIQUE, giving strong lead to a totally competent set ranging from stark aggression, through varying degrees of vocal manipulation, to haunting sensuality.

The whole band maintain a high standard of musical ability and (something new to our era) STYLE.

Listen and look out for more of this musical phenomenon - 1979 will be sealed with Love and Kisses.

(great band, shame about the name!)

Dorian

SPIZZ ENERGI / RAINCOATS / KLEENEX ... RUGBY 17th MAY

SPIZZ ENERGI

The band comprises of four members : keyboards, bass, guitar and Spizz on vocals - note the absence of drums, allowing for their own particular style of music to develop. Their style however does tend to be rather samey - possibly because the tunes were unknown to me and the vocals were somewhat muffled - I think Rough Trade could provide a better sound check/system/technician for this, one of their smaller, lesser known prodigies.

The crowd were pretty unresponsive to the band until after their final number, when shouts of "encore" and "6000 crazy" induced the band to return to the stage. Of course, the final number was '6000 crazy', a resurrected memory from the former Spizz Oil days.

I think that with experience and more encouragement this group of friendly and unpretentious lads may achieve something.

THE RAINCOATS

An unusual and talented female 4 piece consisting of vocals, guitar, drums and electric violin (plus occasional rhythm and bass guitars). Their brand of music is original - a strong heavy beat forms the basis of all their songs and this is provided by the superb drumming of Palmolive (ex Slits).

The Rough Trade recordings do them no justice because they have some good material, which they produce (live) with quality and a dynamism which does not come over on disc. Visually they weren't too stunning. I think this is due to the fact that these women take their music very seriously, and this intensity shows.

The Raincoats are another group of genuine people who seem to do what they are doing because they like it. Luckily they provide enjoyment for others whilst they are enjoying themselves.

KLEENEX

This from-the-land-official band are a 4 piece - vocals, bass, guitar, drums - who submit an original repertoire of strongly based music with wierd semi-English lyrics. Their professionalism was obvious and, unlike the previous bands, their distance from the audience was acute. The music was good, although the band seemed pretty miserable. They rattled through their set with ease, talent, musical ability, professional competence as well as a great deal of energy. The sound quality for Kleenex was much better, which in a way was ironic because I couldn't understand what I heard anyway. All were good were musicians, but Marlene on guitar stood out as the most proficient. The drummer introduced all the numbers as she CAN speak English.

An interesting and unusual band who I hope will become popular. However, due to their appealing to only a minority, I don't think they will receive the recognition they deserve.

All in all, the gig was successful and enjoyable. A thank-you must go to the organisers, Vicky-Rough Trade, for providing this entertainment in Rugby - the not-so-Mecca of the midlands.

by *Emile* (edited version)