

CHESHAM'S

GLORY BOYS

MARCH
80.

SATURDAY 5th JANUARY
CHESHAM UNITED v

(Claret & Blue)
MARTIN BAGULEY
or BILLY BARBER
PAUL GRIFFITHS
TIM SMITH
BOBBY HORRASTEAD
NORMAN DODD
PETER JOHNSON
ALAN JACKETT
JOHN WATT
ROB MARTELL
DANNY JOHNSON
STEVE WOOLFREY
JOE MAGUIRE

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'Wanton yahoosism'

SMIFFIN'
UNDER
WHERE
V

Fanzine tackles apathy

NIGEL HARRISON
EXCLUSIVE.

F.A. CUP 3rd ROUND
CHESHAM UNITED v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

BUT
FAILS..

MARGE'S AGONY
COLUMN?

PANTHER 45
LIVE.

The £2.5 million poser

RON WATTS
SPEAKS!!

WELSH SURVIVE CHESHAM STORM

Chesham Utd. 1 Merthyr Tydfil 1

THE BEEZ.

NALGO BACKS FREE PRESS

NEWS, VIEWS
AND
REVIEWS.

WE STAYED FREE.

CHESHAM HOOLIGANS WARNED

MERTHYR TYDFIL'S attempt to create their own little piece of FA Cup history has been soured by a brick-throwing incident.

It happened when the wind-screen of a supporters' coach was shattered after the Welsh club's 1-1 draw at Chesham on Wednesday.

Now Merthyr, on the verge of reaching the third round

for the first time, have asked for police assistance in an attempt to prevent any repeat of the incident when the Buckinghamshire team visit them for tomorrow's replay.

'We had reports that a wind-screen was shattered,' said Merthyr official Ken Tucker. 'Fortunately nobody was hurt but because of the incident some of the Chesham coaches

will be allowed anywhere near our ground.'

He added: 'Chesham cannot be held responsible but when we arrived at their ground last Saturday — before the game was called off — there were about 20 hooligans hanging around with bricks in their hands. We had to get the police to remove them.'

PETER JACKSON

ERE WE GO AGAIN.....

So...., here we are again and what's changed?.....You've got it in one. Anyway, welcome to the final, yeah FINAL edition of good ol' Sniffin' Under Where. We're into a new decade now where change no doubt will be brisk and the past will be regarded with deserved derisive hoots of laughter. To put it bluntly, we've had enough and have decided to bow out while we're still one step ahead of the multitudes. That's YOU.

Sniffin' Under Where never intended to alter the system but hoped to fuel the imagination of those trapped within it, to look at the alternatives and decide for themselves, rather than having the decision made for them. In short it would appear that the majority are stupid enough to accept everything at face value without ever considering an alternative, which in their eyes probably doesn't even exist. Apathy is another term of description and a word that has adorned this column in every issue so far. Unfortunately.

You probably think (if you're capable?) that we're a bunch of vulnerable self opinionated cynics. Well fair enough, if that's your opinion you're entitled to it but until you actually do something constructive you're more of a hypocrite than a fool. Where else can you pick up a fanzine for free and furthermore, save yourself 10% for the trouble of cutting round a poxy dotted line. The crux of the situation as far as we're concerned though is that some people (70%) are just so uninterested that they can't even be bothered to exert enough energy to pick up the bloody fanzine in the first place. Let alone read it or contribute an opinion. That's YOU again.....mate.

Fortunately there are still a minority that are prepared to have a go regardless of the odds against them in attempting to provide ENTERTAINMENT for you. It's to them that we're dedicated and hopefully so are you, but in retrospect I doubt whether you could give a shit. Surprising really cos you spend most of your time sitting on your arses.

Harping back to the topic of the local press (again), it's great to think that you lot are actually satisfied with the coverage given. The Midweek and Advertiser lead the field but as they're the only runners it's hardly surprising. Aylesbury's got Hard Core and you've got us, the Examiner, Free Piss and Herald. Which is preferable or can't you read?

One more reason to update your passport (or his) is the somewhat discerning fact that it's now SIR Ronald Bellboy. We wont bother to explain why.....

Bollocks to all this, which is only really directed at the Chiltern Children of snotty Amersham but may be digested wherever applicable. Do yourself a favour and attempt to read the following few pages.

WEAPON become a force to be reckoned with once again, now that they're aided and abetted by Steve Bowler and Brian Clarke. Since the departure of Dave Sabatini for CROSSFIRE (who are supposed to have got a contract now?), the band have changed their musical direction as well as their personnel, but in what way we dont exactly know. Anyway, you can see for yourself at either the Elgiva Hall or Oxford Corn Dolly

The first and final "SACK THE HACK" award has to be presented to Anja Ball for the following stunningly perceptive prose.

"What we need in this area is some type of club for staging concerts by local bands in a hall which is suited for the purpose....."

Sure is a long way from the Xaminher to Fleet St.

MARCH AGAINST THE CUTS:- The month of March sees only the third demonstration ever to hit the no through roads of Amersham. Congregate on Sunday 14th outside Hairport and the demo will slowly weave its way along to Roys barber shop and then down the hill to Sids salon.

Seriously though, it was great to see an authentic demo against Thatcher passing through the true blue belt of Amersham High St last January. As far as we know this was only the second demo ever with the first being way back in the early seventies. You've guessed it, the occasion being the opposition against one Margaret Thatcher on the opening of Amersham College.....

Rumour has it that the Chesham area (Ashley Green to be precise) can now claim the addition of its very own PIRATE radio station to the country's network. It's all very illegal but if you twiddle your knob you could catch it?

10%

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MR. RON WATTS: The man in black

Continuing our series of articles on local living legends we now bring you the areas most colourful character. Artists may come and go, fashions change but, so it seems, there will always be Ron Watts. 1980 finds him with only four fingers in various pies; manager of Alexandras in Maidenhead, promoter at the Nags Head and the Town Hall in Wycombe, close links still with the 100 CLUB and of course the most successful band in the area 'Brewers Droop' (Otway isn't a band).

The blues fanatic of the sixties who ran the 100 CLUB with 50 others has weathered the recent upheavels in the 'biz better than most.

He has been hailed as the 'Godfather of Punk' as a result of the Tuesday night gigs at the 100 CLUB, an accolade he modestly refuses, "Well, that's rubbish really I just happened to be in right place at the right time". All the same he was the 1st ever punk promoter in the world. Prophetically, punk killed itself at the 100 CLUB, the Tuesday gigs were closed down cos of a little bit of violence and a lot of damage by both fans and bands. The club was (and is) a world famous jazz club and due to punk "it's reputation was begining to suffer and the building was certainly suffering". Ron was also the 1st real manager of The Damned, who at the time were with STIFF, through his friendship with cuddly Jake riviera he knew that the bands days on the label were numbered and got them "a telephone figure number advance", (he didn't specify if it was 3 figs or 7!) with Polydor, however the Damned being romantics, wanted to stay with STIFF. Sure enough, after Jake left, the Damned were one of the first acts to be axed by Dave Robinson. This caused a parting of the ways for the band and Ron, who thought "they were stupid, they wanted to stay on STIFF and I was pretty pissed off, mainly because I wouldn't be getting any money out of it!"

He has no present wish to manage anyone at present, a job he feels needs a lot of money and complete dedication and faith in a band, qualities he doesn't have. Local rock he feels will become a thing of the future, as the increasing cost of travelling affects both bands and punters alike. The two most well known Wycombe

bands are the XTRAVERTS and Long Tall Shorty, however due to spot of bother at the Nags Head one of the Xtaverts has been barred from the pub, but Ron although a bit wary will still put them on at the Town Hall. Long Tall Shorty he feels "are a very average band who are coming in on the Mod thing, which is full of a lot of ordinary bands, it will fade just like power pop did"

So much for Wycombe being the home of the revolution.

On fanzines he says "they're^{NOT} quite as popular a hobby as it was", (he's dead right), the Buckshee Press was "one of the best, but they ran out of enthusiasm and money at the same time, and as there were 10 of them doing it they could never agree on anything". He liked the Roxette but said that "it was a bit unintelligible to anyone not in the Aylesbury in-crowd, sometimes it was just a list of people who had fallen over drunk at one time or another. So what." A trap that Hardcore is in danger of falling into methinks. Contrary to popular belief 'Brewers Droop' are not dead yet, a reunion gig is planned for St. Valentines Day at the Nag's Head (no jokes about a possible massacre please), with about 10 people who have played in it over the years. The gig is to 'celebrate' the band's 10th birthday. The droop did a 1000 gigs in their time, released an Lp and 3 singles, had a top ten hit in Belgium, Holland and South Africa with 'Heart of Stone', they were the stars of Bilsen festival one year and at the time of their 2nd LP which remains unreleased, (a situation Ron threatens to rectify) numbered Mark Knopfler and Pete Withers, now of Dire Straits. Knopfler turned up for an audition for a bass player, but they let him play anyway and decided he'd better be in the band, they called him 'silver fingers'. This second LP was produced by Dave Edmunds no less and a single will be taken from it, called 'Mild Lady' and released on Big Bear Records in March!

Ron described himself as a 'manic depressive' but feels full of beans at the moment and says we can look forward to some interesting gigs in the future; Tom Robinson who played at the New Year will be back on Jan. 30th, others are the Psychedelic furs, Smirks, Spizz Energi and a few others. By the way he's been approached by the JAM about a possible one-off. Ta for the chat Ron.

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EXCHANGE RATES.....

NEED WE SAY MORE?.....

YEAH, COS THEY SELL FRINGS
TICKETS AN ALL!!

When SUW met The Beez, (or three quarters of them) it would be fair to assume that they were a mite pissed off. What about?... Well for a start this was their first opportunity in two years to speak to the press, and in short they've been pretty well ignored media wise for too long. A fair grievance when you consider that bands such as The Adults and others have had more than their fair share of coverage (which even so doesn't amount to much-ED) without having recorded a single and EP, played at Friars and the Town Hall, as well as opening the doors for others at the Elgiva and Jubilee Hall's. As Paul said, this was a chance to blow their own trumpet for a change and so, it's lucky we were around. Do you think the Xaminher or Free Piss will bother?

The second subject of annoyance was the state of the local music scene. The band have been in the position of paving the way for others with little recognition or appreciation for their troubles, for as long as they can remember. They accept this but are somewhat dismayed by the "couldn't care less attitude" of the other groups. Rob outlined the situation by pointing out that in two years they've learnt absolutely nothing from any other local band. "We hardly knew

what a PA was at our first support bands just roll moan at us afterwards cos 'em half an hour and ten seem to realise that experience at our expense we lost money PA wise on first year." "The attitude doesn't exactly deserve and all four can't help with the incompetence of

Apparently a lot are either unconcerned or just too timid to ask for soundchecks which in opposition is something The Beez have insisted on wherever they've played. In short there seems to be a direct lack of effort with regard to progression with the majority of local bands being too afraid of taking a risk. This

is obviously a and one which itself through produce or reg-applies to most hopefully it will right spirit, ie not as a direct

Gig wise in the fairly of having majority of local

successfully at that. Needless to say they realise the importance of spreading their wings (sorry!) and certainly don't want to "flog this area to death." Before moving on to something completely different there are a couple of points well worth mentioning, especially as the whole group feel strongly about them. They've been described in the past as both a Chesham High School and a Chesham band which as we found, they're equally as quick to point out, they're neither. Simply because they're unfortunate enough to live there isn't enough (in their opinion), especially as the majority of support comes from Wycombe, Aylesbury and Leighton Buzz (were they avin me on?) ard. Also, all four have decided that they won't be supporting Harvey Goldsmiths Kampuchea money box cos they've had enough of being charitable for no thanks. This grievance stems mainly from the recent rag week bash alongside P45 at Amersham Collage which the local press conveniently forgot to mention in all of their reports. You can draw your own conclusions.

Changing the subject to the last it may or may not surprise you aren't particularly with it. was rough which resulted in the ted production. Nevertheless which no doubt prompted thousands they could get a copy, as well as for the lads to sign along the dotted

thought it "sounded like Sham" and WEA decided not to sign anymore new wave acts cos disco was the "new thing and punk was dead!!" Dave Dee proved he didn't play alongside Dozy for nothing by saying that if he'd heard the single six months earlier he'd have been interested, he's an AnR man now..... poor sod. This hasn't exactly discouraged the band because they're more interested in their own Edible lable. They're in the process of forming two separate Companies and are currently contending with the legal problems involved as well as sorting out a distribution deal for the new EP.

THE

BEEZ

gig and yet now up, plug in and we've only given quid. They don't they're getting which is true cos every gig for the of the bands admiration either but get annoyed many support acts. fair comment speaks for lack of vinyl ular gigs. It groups and be taken in as advice and criticism. The Beez are happy position played at the venues and



single (Easy/The Vagrant.) to learn that the band Apparently the master tape somewhat tinny and distorted. Peel played it last July to write in and ask where the Company's forming a queue line. Well..... Warner Brothers thought it "sounded like Sham" and WEA decided not to sign anymore new wave acts cos disco was the "new thing and punk was dead!!" Dave Dee proved he didn't play alongside Dozy for nothing by saying that if he'd heard the single six months earlier he'd have been interested, he's an AnR man now..... poor sod. This hasn't exactly discouraged the band because they're more interested in their own Edible lable. They're in the process of forming two separate Companies and are currently contending with the legal problems involved as well as sorting out a distribution deal for the new EP.

Hopefully the record will be shifted in megawatts by Pinnacle who distribute for Chiswick, coincidentally the Damned's label. If you saw The Beez supporting the aforementioned musical zeroes at Friars last December, then you'd probably have had an advert for the EP plunged into your mit on the way out. A bit premature as it happened because it's been held back for the last few weeks by legal hassles and advertising worries. John Peel, Dave Stopps (who they openly are full of admiration for) and the band themselves are the only ones to own copies but it should be on general release as you read this. See the press for details and then rush along to buy it, okay?

The future is about as certain as the Moscow Olympics and they've decided to take things in simple stages rather than plan for world dominance. This time last year they'd got no gigs planned, had never played at Friars or the Town Hall or believed they could actually come up with a single and an EP. They didn't expect to perform twenty times in public or to get banned from the Reading Target club and ETON, only the second band ever to have played there, the other being Genesis! Obviously it's impossible to say but they do hope to do hope to do alternate headline/support gigs with The Straights, the all girl group that trekked about the GB with the TRB. Current trends and fashion worry the band about as much as a dose of Vapona and they're confident that the songs are strong enough to survive without having to resort to ska mod soul or tamla for assistance.

To write better songs and the ultimate ~~hook~~ is Rob Boughton's aim for the eighties but for all four they'll be happy to carry on playing and to see people actually enjoying themselves. To end with a quote Paul Morris summed up their position pretty well with the following... "We're working in the dark, the same as any small time band."

Hopefully the light in the tunnel aint too far away for them.....

Perfect Strangers

Are by all accounts a band worthy of your support. Future gigs are a little vague but according to the Advertiser they've got at least one lined up in the locality. Not to be confused with the Georgie ^{PS} _S

COMPETITION TIME!!

THAT'S RIGHT.....

WE'RE GONNA GIVE AWAY THE BREWERS' DROOP LP TO THE LUCKY INDIVIDUAL THAT OFFERS THE MOST INTERESTING REASONS AS TO WHY 90% OF THE LOCAL POPULATION ARE LAZY CRETINS

This isn't a joke so leave your entries in any of the advertised shops and we'll let you know

CHESHAM BOYS CHESHAM BOYS.

LACE UP BOOTS AND NO SCORE DRAWS.....

We dont like to say we told you so but read the final paragraph of the last SUW and what do you see? Of course, it was obvious to us that the once mighty CHESHAM UNITED were soon to be mighty again but did you believe us?

Anyway, there's no two ways about it and United certainly put Chesham back on the map. If you weren't down The Meadow on Dec 19th or Jan 2nd you have our deepest sympathy and your credibility rate is lower than your Parka's fish tail. Even if YOU weren't eight thousand were and they were fortunate to see United unite and show the world that there's more to football than Jimmy Hills chin or Elton Johns bald-patch. This is what the game is really about and it's great to see the honest rewarded.

CHESHAM UNITED

The atmosphere at the Merthyr game was really great even if it was marred by the brick throwing bozo's. These same super heroes proved their cowardice by staying well away from the Cambridge game, knowing full well that they'dve been dead and buried in the goalmouth mud. Which is one thing that certainly cannot be said of Chesham who were only inches away from opening the scoring but were deprived by the crossbar and mud. It certainly gave eight thousand something to remember even though it will be forgotten as Phil Thomson lifts the trophy in May.

All told Chesham Utd were overnight heroes and with a bit of luck it will be the same story next season, now that they dont have to battle through the preliminaries. Spare a thought for them playing in front of the faithful two hundred and if you wanna do yourself a favour become a Club member. This'll only set you back a mere 50p and will entitle you to free travel to away games on the team coach. What more could you ask for, a seat in the dug-out-

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From HOLLYWOOD to NEW YORK to FRIARS
The rags to riches story of NIGEL HARRISON

"Oh Gawd, he's such a peasant, even Lemmy thought he was common, and that's saying something I can tell you!" so sayeth Suni, the PR girl officiating for Blondie today. Mind you, she's no sophisticate herself, in spite of the name, with a Luton accent broad enough to make Ross Jenkins miss a penalty. "Ahhhhh the places I've seen Kris Needs fall over, out of his head dear, I can tell you." We were passing the time waiting for NH to finish with a particularly gorgeous hackette from a real paper. Having increased Needs credibility with that plug, I'll now get on with the real business of the day:-

SUW Where do you come from exactly?

NH I was born in Stockport, but brought up in Princes Risborough. I left school at 15 and went to work in a factory which made bits for cigarette making machines.

SUW I don't know if you ever saw Dave Stopps history of Friars, but in that he's got you down as a window cleaner, was that true?

NH (laughs) Yeah, that was true. He was my education you know, and also the Town Hall at Wycombe. Used to see all sorts down there, Hollies, Clapton, Pretty Things, Small Faces.

SUW Dave Stopps was manager of band you were in?

NH Yeah that's right, The Smokey Rice Blues Band.

SUW Were you ever in Brewers Droop, everyone else seems to have been?

NH Nah, ... but I've experienced brewers droop. (squeals from the Luton bombshell at this point) "If you're gonna turn this into a locker room discussion, I'm off." But she stayed.

SUW How did you get into Silverhead?

NH Just by being in London. I always thought you had to be something special to be in a band like that, but all you had to do was get on a train and go to London.

SUW Did you enjoy Silverhead?

NH Yeah, it was great, I believed in that band right to the very end. But we did this awful gig at Friars, Michael des Barres was really obnoxious that night and Dave said to me "Nigel what are you doing in this band, what are you doing with your life and WHAT are you doing with that Michael des Barres?" and all me mates had come to see me, it was awful.

SUW When I heard that Blondie were doing a small warm-up gig, I thought it was Friars.

NH Yeah so did I. It was funny 'cos a warm-up gig, is supposed to help the lighting crew get used to this enormous rig we have, and you know the hall at Bournemouth was only 11 feet high, they could have stayed at home. But I betcha that if we'd had enough time we would have done Friars, we're very very conscious of that gig. In fact my very first Blondie gig was at Friars. It was ironic, Hollywood to New York to Friars!

SUW Where do Blondie go from here, you've reached a peak now with selling records?

NH I dunno, I guess we'll just carry on as we have been. In the end I suppose Debbie will go into movies, but that won't bother me in the slightest, Jimmy and Chris are producing and I'm sure I will as well. I'm looking for bands at the moment, you'd be surprised how much loose money there is in Hollywood.

SUW Try me

NH I've had a lot of people come up to me and ask me to look out for new bands in England

SUW Are you serious?

NH Yeah sure. If there's any bands out there with a young and original sound, send me a tape. Write C/O 527 ORLANDO AVE. #4 HOLLYWOOD. California. USA. Anything will do, I like getting mail anyway.

SUW Back to Blondie.

NH Oh yeah, well, as I say they all keep say-how Debbie will do movies, but that should'n't stop us making records.

SUW How's the scene in Hollywood mannnnnn ?

NH Ha new wave in LA is just so ridiculous, all these little rich kids going round in bondage, you know. Three years too late.

SUW Sounds just like London. In England the new wave has its roots in working class kids, and is politically based (so NME tells us).. Why isn't this the case in America?

NH There ain't nothing to complain about really. You got Palm trees and beaches it's great. Punk in Hollywood is silly, I only live there 'cos the roads are nice and I can drive to the sea. You can't drive in New York, where the others live (BLONDIE).

SUW Isn't it a hassle living 3000 miles away from the people you work with?

NH Nah, there's a good bus service.

SUW Eat to the Beat has been called weak, is that a valid criticism?

NH (getting ratty) Yeah well, it's obvious they would do that.

SUW Does the press backlash bother you?

NH I'm annoyed with myself 'cos I should've seen it coming. I mean I was brought up on the British Press, you know dashing up to London on a Wednesday to be the first kid in the village with the NME. But I must admit I don't get such a rush off ETTE as I did from Parallel Lines.

SUW NME said "Blondie aren't a live band, never were and probably never will be" Fair comment?

NH Nah that's crap it was a great show and everyone else thought so except the reviewer.

SUW Blondie were very much a media band, from a Debbie point of view.....

NH Yeah well (getting rattier) what those bastards have done to her is just disgusting she's been kicked in the face. There was this guy right, Simon Kinsley or what ever he is called, from the Daily Mail. He stayed with us for two fucking days, he was around before gig, after gig and made ourselves really vulnerable to him. He kept on saying what a great group piece he was gonna write and.... Did you see it?

SUW Nah, (he's got me at it now)

NH I wish I'd brought it along. It was just three fucking paragraphs on how fucked up Debbie was without her make-up. jeeezzzus I don't know what she'd do to him if she saw him now. That was the last straw as far as she's concerned, You can't trust these bastards, she was really straight and honest with him, and look what he does.

SUW Mmmmmmm. Is the press in the States, like ours?

NH Nah, it's not so bitchy, but I don't read much press, I mean ... 'Rolling Stone' you know, it's a joke.

SUW You've got a weird sense of humour.

NH I prefer fanzines. (a good answer that)

SUW You had err ... management trouble.

NH Err, yeah but don't print any of this. At one point I was just waiting for Alan Klein to come in. We interviewed 37 managers, all these creeps saying, "I'm really good, I got this deal for Aerosmith, and all this shit. We ain't rich you know, that sounds incredible after all the hits, but it's true."

(Draw your own conclusions)

SUW Blondie really milk the LP's for singles, are you short on songs or something?

NH Mmmmm, well it's only recently that we've had control over what is released, it's always been down to Chrysalis. It's not planned though, we took ages trying to find a single on Parallel Lines, and look what happened! You know I always thought that singles had to give you tingles down your backbone, like the Beatles ones used to do, but I don't get that off any Blondie music.

(Ooops, what a giveaway)

SUW In theory, if everyone buys the LP, who's going to be dumb enough to buy the single, it should work against you?

NH Yeah right, if it's any consolation though we recorded two of the shows so we may put a couple of live B sides out.

SUW Are Blondie a friendly band? In the early days, Dingwalls for instance, there used to be fights onstage.

NH No Blondie ain't a nice band. We've had quite a few fights, but at the moment it's just verbal. My doctor gave me some pills and told me to punch walls and not people! It used to be between me and Chris, then it was Jimmy and Chris and now it's back to me and Chris. We're pretty swifty, I'm surprised that side of us doesn't get projected more. I think I tend to get kept out if doing press 'cos I tell too much of the truth and don't gloss it over like some do.

(There are only two others. Nige) It's great that you're a fanzine 'cos you can print all of this stuff. Right?

SUW Right

NH Oh Shit, still it don't matter, any band fights,

SUW Not on stage.

NH But at least it's healthy, it shows that we care about what we do. (good point) But we've been through so many hassles, whether it be a legal thing with managers or a really heavy personal thing in the band, so we ain't going to break up over a fight on stage.

SUW You didn't do the Anti-Make thing?

NH They asked us, but it looked a bit like a circus to us, you know a bit dis-organised. I agree with the cause though, I mean anyone who wants to put a nuclear reactor on the San Andreas fault has got to be crazy.

Out of the corner of my eye I spy Luton's answer to Debbie Harry looking authoritative. "The others have all gone down to Air Studios"

NH Those bastards, if that's to listen to the Pete Townshend thing, I shall be mad, it was me who fixed that thing up."

So I leave, telling the three kids outside who've been hanging around the hotel all afternoon where to go if want to see their heroes. Some people are crazy, NH said that two 15 yr old girls paid £25 each for tickets.

Thanks for the chat Nige. And thanks to Mrs Stevens to fixing it up for me, and of course to Miss Suni.

THE BEEZ EP.

So after about eight months the record your collection has been waiting for has arrived. But this time with a capital A.

First of all though, it's worth mentioning that since The Beez article was written the distribution deal has changed from Pinnacle to Rough Trade and the band have won a demo-tape competition in non other than the elitist Musicians Only magazine. Apparently Peel has played the record on a number of occasions but this can only be taken as hearsay.

More to the point though, this record not only takes over from where the band left off last year but forcibly kicks obscurity aside. After the initial disappointment of Easy (intro wise) they've obviously learned from errors of old and this time open with a winner. DC THE SUICIDE is probably the most commercial of the four tracks and as a pop song alone is worthy of air play. It's complete in production and economy with the contrast between lead and back up vocals giving it the classic new wave feel. The chorus is nagging enough to stay in your head with the lyrics being so witty as to form a smile on any undertakers boat-race. As far as comparisons go the contrast between vocals conjures images of the Undertones and SLF but with The Beez own distinctive style. Great ending as well.

The second track (BACKSTREET LOVE.) shows the band proving their musical ability and is an example of the new wave of heavy metal, if such a thing exists. One of their assets must be the diversity of musical influences and this song sees them moving through most of them. A song The Damned would be proud to massacre.

For me, GIRLS is the weakest of the four mainly because of its lack of direction. The lead riff is buried in the wall of sound which is a pity 'cos it's the strongest point. Also the vocals are a little indistinct and it isn't till the end that they become apparent.

While the opening track has the most instinctive appeal the final offering YOU MAKE ME FEEL BETTER is easily the most interesting. It's difficult to pinpoint the attraction so instead of taking my word for it go and get your own copy immediately. Over ten minutes of The Beez at their best and a must for any collection.

THE DISCO STUDENTS - SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE

LACK OF SPACE PREVENTS US FROM REVIEWING THIS PROPERLY BUT NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL SAY IT'S AN EXCELLENT RECORD SIMILAR TO THE GANG OF FOUR BUT LESS CONTRIVED AND MORE INTERESTING. THE BANDS POTENTIAL MUST SOON BE RECOGNISED AND PERHAPS

AYLESBURY WILL STOP IGNORING THEM THEN. AVAILABLE FROM EARTHS OR ROUGHTRADE. P100

ELGIVA KOTZ ROCKS AGAIN

This time it was the turn of Panther 45 and Charz (or it could have been Sharkz, anyway it was a pun on Jaws) to fill the empty spaces with noise.

P45 are a promising band, most of their songs have something good about them, however, perhaps due to lack of experience or match practice there is no positive direction or flavour to the band. At times they sounded horrendously old, lots of atmospheric organ à la Wake(man), at others they were tight, fast, quirky AND melodic, a sort of Joe Jackson meets the UK Subs. Their apparent (to me) musical confusion was relayed to visual presentation. The excellent drummer was in braces, guitarist in time-warp baggy jeans, plimsolls and more hair than he could handle, bass and keyboards were sharp looking, both with ska (!) hats on. The vocalist, wore black eye make-up and a dracula type cape, he was meant to look evil. All in all a right mixed bag which needs sorting out and simplifying.

Predominant colour is black; many songs are morbid and treat funerals, death and rats with tongue in cheek humour. They leave themselves open to misinterpretation, add together Black and Panther, and what do you get? One song in particular about a bloke, a knife and a young girl would not go down too well at Leeds. All this is heading towards dangerous ground. OK, so I'm being melodramatic, but if P45 are seriously thinking about 'stardom' then they'd better prepare themselves for an inquisition by the National Music Press. My advice is to take their tongues out of cheeks and make their humour more raspberry like. It's important that no-one, especially blood hungry hacks, makes the mistake of thinking that you find anything at all funny in what happened to Lesley Whittle.

Lenny Bruce defined satire as being made up of 'Tragedy plus Time' ie: jokes about the Titanic are funny whereas those about Lord Mountbatten aren't (yet). I hope P45 don't regard this as a slagging off, it's intended as 'constructive criticism', they can write, sing and play good songs and therefore have a future, so now is the time to 'get their act together', it will be too late when they've spent the record co. advance, have 6 more LP's to

go till the contract expires and they're getting bad reviews. Sharkz (or however you spell it) were a different kettle of piranhas. No controversy here, they were loud fast and poppy. With a good producer and a bit of rearrangement they are chart material. The time is right for this sort of band thanks to The Beat and The Tourists who've paved the way, and with the possible emergence of Tom Petty and The Records in the spring.

The singer was loud and powerful without screaming, being cheeky and little while at the same time commanding respect he is a natural frontman, like the singer from Aylesbury based band The Liggers. Sharz would be wasting their time by pissing around with local gigs in front of 20 people, they should get a demo done right now and send it off, or even do their own single.

You think I'm exaggerating? well.... perhaps just a little bit, but one must be positive in these matters mustn't one.

THE DISMAL STATE OF THE ART

In SUW no.1 you will no doubt recall that we were moaning about, among other things, the lack of opportunity local bands had for getting gigs and generally making themselves known.

That was over a year ago, since then the 'scene' has hardly flourished, we've seen a handful of poorly attended gigs at the Elgiva Hall, the temporary demise of Zigzag, one issue of 'Hardcore' and of course, US. One bright spark which failed to ignite the latent sparks of creativity was Mick Channer's Lowndes Park thingy, it was a noble effort but, we can see with hindsight, doomed as an attempt to encourage the masses. The Bucks Examiner, sensing the spirit of the age, killed off the 'On the rocks' column.

The only 'on-going' situation is the BEEZ, with one single under their belts and gigs at Wycombe and Friars and an EP on the way.

And the rest? There's still no Pub-gig in the area, and in spite of the cheap rate available to local bands at the Elgiva it's a hardly a regular event. Which is not surprising considering the lack of support that bands get who do play there.

Still don't let it worry you, just carry on with your pilgrimages to Friars and keep on buying Melody Maker. We ain't gonna write to you no more cos YOU ARE NOT WORTH IT.



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YEAH
 THIS IS EXACTLY
 WHAT WE SAID IN
 SUW ONE.....

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I've just got to write and let you in on my problem cos I'm desperate and I'm sure that you'll be able to help. Well ya see, oh shit how can I begin to explain? I spose I must though so here goes..... I've got a PERSONALITY CRISIS.

Yeah shocking innit and why, why, why should it 'ave 'appened to me? I only hope that you can tell me and put me back on the lines. Things have come to a head in the past few months and now I'm in the utterly dispicable position of not knowing whether I'm a punk, a skin, a ska-rude boy, a mod or even a glory boy. Perhaps if I tell you a little bit about the last few months you'll be able to draw some conclusions and hopefully arrive at a solution.

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Everything was just fine only a matter of months ago ('cept when I caught tonsillitis and couldn't gob straight) and yet now I can't even go to the Lyceum without gettin' rolled. It all started when I went to see Secret Affair in me kilt and bondage strides only to find the place full of smart Alecs in mohairs and hush puppies. Well fair enough, I'd just got me tax rebate so I took Poster Bros advice and invested in a glory boy get up. I wanted to go the full way and get the tatoo lip job but apparently it's dangerous, so me Ma says.

TWO-TONE TROUSERS

Yeah well, I felt glorious until I got roughed up by some skins in retaliation to the GB's claiming to be the elite. Bloody irony eh, so I thought sod that for a laugh, if you can't beat 'em join 'em. I nung up me hush puppies and borrowed me brothers Loafers, ditched the mohair an' decked out in an 'arrington, ben sherman and levis. I even went so far as to shave me napper which was a big decision cos ever since I was a baby I've had protrudin' lug 'oles, (but that's another problem which we've previously corresponded on.) Anyway, things were great for a while and I had a fantastic time smashing up lavs, tramplin' allotment plots and scarin' schoolkids. But then as always there was something else to be. I had to stay in for three weeks to let me barnet grow and to save up for a two tone whistle'n'flute. I couldn't get a rude boy TITfer to fit properly (cos of me ears) an' at first I felt a bit dumb wearin' me Grans shades. Things were just fine though until, you've guessed it, I bloody well got done in by some skins at the Madness gig. See what I mean about irony? Yeah well, as you can imagine my bravado was bugged and in a fit of depression I ventured along to Friars to see Camel. Fuck me if I didn't get refused entry cos I was still wearin' steel toe caps from an afternoons session

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diggin' me Granpops allotment plot. My only hope is that Sounds are right and there really will be a new wave of heavy metal. Knowing my luck though by the time I've grown me split ends it'll be dead an' buried. That's why I aven't become a fully fledged Mod cos I'm sure it'll be forgotten in a matter of months. Anyway, I can't stand revivals cos they've got no originality.

I really hope that you can help and will come up with a suggestion.

We have
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Yours,
B. BENTON.....

DEAR HAROLD,

QUITE SIMPLY, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A WET FART AND THE ONLY ADVICE I CAN OFFER IS THAT YOU JOG OFF AND JOIN THE REST OF THE CREW DOWN AT THE GREEN MAN, THAT I'VE READ SO MUCH ABOUT.

love + kisses
Marge xxxxxxxxxxxx

THE END BIT.

Before we finally disappear we'd just like to thank the following for the help and encouragement given towards past issues. Namely,
HAIRPORT, SCORPION, EARTH AND VENUS RECORDS
STRAWBERRY FIELDS AND THE WHITEHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Also The Beez, Mick Channer, Kris Needs, Dave Stopps, Pauline, Ron Watts, Nigel Harrison, The Ladykillers decd, Andy H, Fiona, Josien along with the entire population of Holland.

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