

WCDB

91 FM



"THE OVER-MODULATORS"

The WCDB Program Guide

Fall 1980

SUMMER ROLL:

by Jim Diamond & Paul Heneghan

Bill Goodfriend

Diarmuid Quinn

There has always been an excitement associated with the summer that has fostered a surge in pop music. A good percentage of the year's hits usually surface in late spring with intentions of aiding sales during the carefree vacation months. The album purchasing crowd has more time to listen to radio and albums, often blessed with summer jobs and summer paychecks.

The summer of 1980 did not produce the kind of music we were made accustomed to hearing in the three previous summers. While Blotto's 'Lifeguard' was a welcomed substitution for the innocuous 'Ring My Bell', those heavy rock 'n roll albums, for the most part, were not there. We'll just have to wait till Christmas for Bruce and Steely Dan.

The lack of those 'heavies' forced radio stations into overplaying whatever new quality vinyl came their way. It also forced them into featuring oldies shows glorifying past summer successes. Southside Johnny's *Love is a Sacrifice* represents their most popular effort to date. The album, and the band deserve this long overdue acceptance. For a long period of time they spent their energy in the shadow of Springsteen, but have proven to be capable of achieving their own identity. The band's production both live and on record is highly dependent on a vibrant horn section. Their prolific release of material and intense concert performances satiate rock 'n rollers' appetites, whereas Springsteen has succeeded in embittering fans who've been disappointed through long album-less years.

Here are some thoughts on more of the summer's releases: **Pete Townsend's** *Empty Glass*: Rock 'n roll's genius gives us another sweet breath of fresh air, and kept many of us believing that Summer '80 had potential. **Mink Deville**: This could be his 'Damn The Torpedos'. 'Savoir Faire', 'This Could Be The Night' make *Le Chat Blue* Summer '80's most underrated effort. **Rolling Stones, Emotional Rescue**: In the shadow of *Some Girls*, lots of good fun music—take it for what it's worth. If not for 'Down in the Whole' and 'All About You' it would have been a scandal. **Graham Parker, The Up Escalator**: Despite what the critics say, this one is phenomenal. Once again, Graham runs the gamut, from heart-wrenching ballads, ('The Beating of Another Heart'), to anguish and pain, ('Empty Lies'), and resurfaces again, vibrant and alive with 'Endless Night', Parker wins again! Guest appearance from the Boss, too.

QUICK CUTS

Bob Marley & The Wailers, Uprising: This past summer, reggae fans and fans of all music were blessed with the new release from Bob Marley. Recorded on Warner's Island Label, Marley's rhythmic vocals and prophetic style comes forth with classic rastafarian spirit. The message is clear and is contained in the song 'Work'; which proclaims: "We can make it work". This they do quite well.

Roxy Music, Flesh and Blood: Innovators from the start, Roxy pulls another ace from their deck of highly-stylized repertoire. *Flesh and Blood* succeeds in bringing about a mix of sounds, without sacrificing Roxy's identifying trademark of textured, leveled production. Ferry, Manzanera, and MacKay, sans Paul Thompson keep the ears listening throughout. **Jeff Beck, There and Back**: After four years Beck hasn't changed much. While the album is still worthwhile there is no departure from *Wired*. After a year maybe we'd be happy with *There and Back*. But after four years someone of Beck's talent should have developed something a bit more diverse than this further funky recording. Has he left rock 'n roll forever or can we expect more funk and groove in '84? **Peter Gabriel**: Clearly the evidence has been presented. At the time of his departure from Genesis, many wondered about Peter Gabriel's ability to work within the rock genre. Here, on his third solo effort, he has found a medium between his dramatic vignettes and the rhythm texture of New Wave. This album is a must for followers and new fans alike.

Summer '80 was a weird one musically. The quality rock 'n roll was there, but much of it went unnoticed as far as AM or FM 'hits'. Luckily there are still some radio stations around who don't depend exclusively on the heavies and are comfortable with good ole' un-hyped music. Let's see what the Christmas splurge shapes into; maybe we'll all get lucky.

STATION SPOTLIGHT

THE OTHER SIDE OF ROCK

JAZZ ON

by Russ Rieger

By Dave Salzberg

Welcome to 91FM's **Notes From The Underground**, where we go beyond the realm of commercial radio to bring you exciting music from across the ocean and around the corner. Music is constantly growing and changing and WCDB will always be the leader in playing not only the hits by the most famous, but also the mini-classics by those bands on small labels who don't have much of a chance on commercial radio. Other stations play only the top albums and singles of a particular genre. But "top" by no means is the best, it's just the most widely known. So much great music is lost because of ratings, format, and of course, money. Well, as you know- we here at 91FM don't pay much attention to that nonsense. We feel that lovers of great rock and roll should be entitled to hear everything rock has to offer. That's why **Notes From The Underground** features intriguing music from unknown bands of small labels. Many bands are huge in England, Boston, Jamaica, California, New York, and Albany but you'll never get the chance to hear them. Whatever is fresh and exciting, be it new wave, heavy metal, motown, punk, or reggae- step down into the Underground-Wednesday nights at 12:00 midnight, for the best in r&r by the not so famous. We'll be waiting.

Since its introduction into the WCDB format, jazz has become increasingly popular at the station. This is due to the variety of jazz we try to present, from early ragtime to free music, as well as just about any request. In any case, 91FM is proud to boast about the fact that we are the only station in the Capital District with a daily commitment to jazz. Every weekday evening, from 5-8 p.m., a variety of knowledgeable D.J.'s explore the many facets of the music truly native to these United States. Each and every era of jazz is touched upon, and as with all types of music on WCDB, we try to keep you informed about what's happening today in jazz.

One such happening is bassist Bunny Brunel. This French artist is slowly but surely working his way into the hearts of Chick Corea fans everywhere. Bunny really understands the music of Corea, and in concert they seem to be guided by a single intelligence. In any setting - a thirteen piece orchestra or a small quintet - Brunel's bass playing is always on top. In Chick's new work he is superb, and he adds new flavor to Corea standards such as *500 Miles High* and *Spain*.

Bunny Brunel is soon to release an album of his own in this country. Recorded in France with such notables as Chick Corea, Andre Ceccarelli, percussionist, and Nicol Villa, vocalist, the album will be called *Touch*, and offers many beautiful jazz compositions.

Speaking with Bunny, one can feel the warmth that is part of him and his music. He will be an important artist for the years to come. Listen to early evening jazz on WCDB and you will hear the music of Bunny Brunel, or Miles Davis, or Pat Metheny, or John Coltrane, or the Art Ensemble of Chicago, or Weather Report, or nearly any other jazz artist you can think of. Early evening jazz is good for you and your digestion!

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457-5262

ENGLAND ROCKS?

By Richard Schenkman Overseas Correspondent

Most American rock 'n roll fans have always looked to England for the best in popular music. After all, the Jewel in the Sea gave us the Beatles and Stones, then Cream, Yes, and later The Sex Pistols, Clash, and Pretenders. What these "Grass is greener" fans forget is that the Fab Four looked to Buddy Holly and Bob Dylan for inspiration, Art-Rockers were blues-based, and the first 'punks' were Lou Reed, and then the Ramone brothers.

But there is something very exciting about a country that gives The Jam number-one hit singles, that imports a Dutch "Bank Robber" single because The Clash weren't planning on releasing the song domestically for six weeks, that has five weekly rock TV shows, and has stars like Pete Townshend and Elvis Costello appearing on radio shows each week.

Yet England is no rock music Utopia. There is one "progressive" rock show in stereo in the whole country. The number one song is as often a song by Abba or Cliff Richard, or worse, a disco number, as it is a r&r tune. During a great sale, you can buy an album for as little as 9 dollars. Usually they're 10-12 a piece. American imports go for 17.

Hence the British reliance on singles. At 2.50, they are still not cheap, but only cost the same as admission to a small rock pub. Novelty songs, (like "Captain Beaky and his Band", by Keith Michel), figure heavily into the British music business, as do specially packaged EPs., 7-inch records that play at 45 or 33rpm, 'extended play' singles usually feature the "plug song", (side A, as it were), an album cut, (traditionally weak in the US, often not bad in the UK), and one or two more songs recorded live, or in some other way generally not found on an album. Lately special packages have included double sleeve two disc singles, giving the purchaser upwards of 6 songs for his pound fifteen.

Despite the large amount of creativity in such a small space, Britain doesn't even offer a new rock musician as much of a chance as the US. The violent and abusive rock press turns on each star in turn, in a "backlash" that usually follows the artist's third successful single. But even a big success is not so big. With Britain and its economy so small, a huge seller moves several hundred thousand records. And artists like Graham Parker are chased out of the country. He toured England to support his failing *Squeezing Out Sparks*, and later said, "I was so disappointed. And then we went to America and suddenly we had a new audience. It had opened out for us and the record did better, and to me this was an up, whereas England wasn't." Import English records are nice, but a rock fan can't lose perspective.

THE SOURCE

While music is an itegral part of WCDB's makeup, **91FM News** is on the move as well. Local news is carried several times daily, providing updates on campus events, as well as locally and statewide. On all other hours, international and national news is broadcast.

But "just the news" is not enough. WCDB has an important obligation to look at public affairs of interest to the community. Our answer is **On The Podium**. Every Tuesday night from 8 to 9pm, we present not only information, but also a glimpse at the personalities of those people making news. Host Pete Sgro and his staff are always searching for those stories that people find interesting, yet do not know how to find on their own. Our premire show presented listeners with such newsmakers as Jewish Defense League founder Meir Kahane, and Katherine Kennedy, niece of Senator Edward Kennedy. On The Podium was also ready as we presented phone-in segments and interviews with those involved in our Student Association controversy. We will continue to stay on top those events of primary interest to the community in the coming semester.

Finally, this fall we will undertake extensive coverage of the 1980 elections, both on the national and local level. Correspondents will be stationed in New York for the Senate races, around town for local elections, as well as in-depth reporting about the Presidential contest. No matter what the story, we'll be there to bring you the news on 91FM. Listen in and stay informed.

Review: *The Vapors*

All About Us

by Russ Rieger

It is often difficult for a British band to be successful in the US because it is claimed their sound is too British. The Jam, one of the most popular acts in England, have been experiencing this problem throughout their career. However, this will not be a concern for **The Vapors**, who, although very heavily influenced by The Jam, lack Paul Weller's pretentiousness and have steered clear of that British sound. This all adds to the potential success of The Vapors in America.

But the real secret is that *New Clear Days*, (a very satirical title-say it to yourself quickly and you'll understand), is easily one of the best debut albums this year. The Vapors play rock 'n roll with pop undertones which will please both categories of listeners. "News At Ten", "Prisoners", (their first single), and "Bunkers" show off the bands energy, talent, and cleverness which was originally heard in "Turning Japanese", their latest single.

The addition of a Japanese sound by Edward Bazalgette, on lead guitar offers a refreshing sound to the Vapors on two fine tracks, "Letter from Hiro", and "Turning Japanese". The sounds of a younger David Bowie can too be heard occassionally from vocalist David Fenton. This is not to be interpreted as stealing, rather simply learning from the best. And that's exactly what the Vapors have accomplished. For this year at least, it looks like *New Clear Days* are ahead for the Vapors, because everyone who has taken the time to listen is 'Turning Japanese'.

Siyanara!

Welcome to listener oriented radio! The Capital District has been blessed with a refreshing alternative to an otherwise unchallenging radio environment. With no commercials, WCDB sticks to business; the business of keeping you well entertained and well informed.

Check our schedule and tune into your kind of program. Our music has no obligations to anybody but our listeners, so give us a call and help have it your own way.

We've got lots of rock 'n roll, with oldies and underground specialty shows, concerts and album features. If jazz is your bag, we'll treat you to weekday jazz hours.

Don't get us wrong, though. There's more to 91FM than just music. Our 91FM newsteam provides daily updates on campus and local happenings. We'll bring live Great Dane sports to your living rooms as well as classic radio mysteries.

Don't give up so quickly on FM radio in Albany. There's no need to settle for predictable commercial radio anymore. We're in this together, take advantage of the alternative; WCDB, 91FM.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

RAFTERS: WCDB and UCB once again join forces to bring you the semester's wildest night of fun and music. See the face behind the voice spinning the tunes for a night you won't soon forget%

WCDB NIGHT AT THE RAT: Don't miss Spring Fever, one of the finest local rock bands, in this rare appearance right here at SUNYA. Wear your WCDB tee and do something exciting on a Wednesday night for a change.

The return of the WCDB TEE SHIRT: Back for a limited time only, due to popular demand. you've seen them around, now don't miss this opportunity to purchase you very own.

GIVEAWAY, FREEBIES, AND HANDOUTS: Just for calling up 91FM at the right moment concert tickets, shirts, buttons, posters, records, movie tickets, EVERYTHING you might ever want to get from a radio station. DON'T touch that dial--

These exciting events and much more coming soon. Keep on listening for details.

A CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO ALBANY MUSIC

You've said good-bye to your family, your friends and favorite night-spot, your local record store and radio station. Now you're in Albany and you find yourself at a loss without these precious necessities. All is not lost for WCDB can help ease the insecurity which accompanies relocating. We have compiled an extensive list of some of the best places to find music; as a disk, on a stage, or for your own original compositions. So relax-take note of the places listed herein- and somewhere in Albany you'll find all the musical comforts of home.

RECORD STORES
JUST-A-SONG- 211 Central Ave. 434-0085

Famous all over northeast NY for their selection of cut-outs. They also have one of the finest selections of rock and jazz new releases in the area. The store features a great collection of tapes, recording accessories, buttons, tee shirts and other musical paraphernalia. Ticketron services are available and the sales folks really know their music well.

MIDLAND RECORDS- Colonie Shopping Centre 459-8326 Most noted for their unique poster collection and guitar accessories. Located right in the mall, its a great place to browse when you're tired of shopping.

RECORD TOWN- Stuyvesant Plaza 438-3003
Right across the road from SUNY, this store offers a good selection of albums and tapes. A bit over-priced, but they will order any albums out of stock.

RECORD COOP- First floor CC at SUNY
Our very own record store, run entirely by fellow students. They offer a regular selection of popular albums plus a few unique goodies. Watch for special give-aways with 91FM.

FANTACO- 21 Central Ave. 463-1400
"The store for comic relief"-the most complete selection of domestic and imported rock press in the area, plus comic books, fantasy publications, buttons, posters and tee shirts. Watch for the annual Fantacon, Sept. 27,28 at the Empire State Plaza.

NIGHTSPOTS
HULLABALLO- 1006 6th St. Rens. 436-1640
A bit of a truck but well worth catching a ride. It is the area's standard for local music and top namer&r bands. The club féatures tiered seating so there's a great view no matter where you sit. Don't let the lack of bus transportation scare you away from a place that could become a second home.

by Joan Brandejsky & Trudi Lesser

SPARKLES- Rte. 9 Latham 785-9115

The club has only been around for one year and was entirely disco entertainment. According to 'inside sources' they have seen the light and plan to change to a rock nightclub. The decor is beautiful and with the addition of live top name acts, should be something really special. Let's hope they've changed their ways and emerge as a welcome addition to the realm of r & r reality.

RAFTERS- Saratoga Springs, on the lake
A huge, redecorated barn, this club is probably the most impressive one you'll see in a while. Three floors, an outdoor deck overlooking the lake, 3 bars, and a terrific sound system. No semester is complete without at least one trip up the Northway. And best of all, its the site of WCDB's semi-annual rock and roll party extrodinaire! Listen to 91FM for details about a night not to be missed.

RADIO STATIONS
WCDB, 91FM-CC 316 SUNY

Rock and roll, jazz, third world, classical-you name it and you'll hear it on 91FM. Keep your dial glued here, and you'll never need to look any further. No commercials, giveaways, specials, sports, up to date news and information, music still wet on the vinyl or dusted off from days gone by. Need we say more ?

PROGRAM GUIDE STAFF

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