

INFORMER



DR. FEELGOOD — at the Stadium on January 22.

ROCKNOTES

Mike Evans

NEW YEAR columns are traditionally the excuse for a spot of crystal gazing as to what's likely to happen over the next twelve months; while the rock scene is less predictable than most, it's an enjoyable bit of self-indulgence all the same so here goes.

The swing locally will almost certainly be away from the heavier and apparently (I stress *apparently*) more complex bands to those presenting first and foremost *entertaining* rock — without falling into the cabaret trap — and often rock we can dance to once again (who remembers when rock'n'roll was primarily a dance music?)

There's nothing new in this of course. Since the 'pub rock' venues developed in London a couple of years ago, that has been the tendency there. But Liverpool has certainly been lagging behind, and in the pubs that have operated a rock policy — the Sportsman, O'Connors, the Star and Garter etc — only Supercharge and a couple of other groups have leaned in this direction. But as has been the case down south with bands like Dr Feelgood, Rocky Sharpe and the Razors, the Kursaal Flyers, the move to more immediate, danceable rock will possibly come in the form of basic rock'n'roll and rhythm and blues.

Already the signs are around. One-time Supercharge luminary Alan 'Gazzer' Gaskell is rehearsing an R&B outfit, Dr Feelgood's early sixties style English R&B sell out the Stadium every time, and there is now strong talk of an R&B oriented club opening in the middle of town. As any member of the Vintage Rock'n'Roll Appreciation Society

will tell you, 'revival' isn't the right word as the music's never died in the first place, and there's no reason why in rock the situation shouldn't exist like in jazz in the 'fifties and 'sixties (and indeed now) with 'traditional', 'modern' and such co-existing side by side, their purist followers remaining strictly partisan while many others being open minded fans of all styles.

QUICKIES... Spencer Leigh's WEA course of rock lectures a breakthrough... this writer guesting for three... talking of vintage rock, Fats Domino coming over in February... Domino the only remaining old time rock-giant still to travel with a regular band similar to on his classic recordings... also Chuck Berry later in the spring, who unfortunately *doesn't* keep his own group...apologies for not much "What's On" — info about such things tends to dry up over the festive season... watch out for a single from Supercharge around the end of the month... and also from Deaf School in February... lunchtime sessions at O'Halligan's Parlour soon? ...they've already featured poetry'n'rock in 'Desolation Angel' based on the work of 'fifties "beat" author Jack Kerouac... Granada TV planning a Deaf School documentary... Dylan's "Rolling Thunder Review" for Liverpool?....

WHAT'S ON

Tues 13 Jan. First in series of 12 lectures on popular music. Workers' Educational Association. University Arts Library, Bedford St South.
Sat 17 Jan. FRUPP — Stadium.
Sun 18 Jan. JAMES BROWN — Empire.
Thurs 22 Jan. DR FEELGOOD — Stadium.
Mon 26 Jan. HENRI'S BISTRO POETS with Edward Lucie-Smith.

SMALL ADS

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THE MERSEYSIDE Gay Women's Group (for homosexual and bisexual women) meets each Tuesday, 8.00 for informal discussions and socialising. Ring Friend Merseyside 708 9552.

WANTED: Upright piano at nominal price for Free Press journalist. 227 2514 (daytime).

TIME on your hands? Then why not come along to a free improvised activity workshop? Every Monday at 4 p.m. and Tues at 7.45. Theatre Studio, top floor, 19 Williamson Street (off Church Street) Liverpool. Tel: 724 4369.

CHEAP REMOVALS and haulage. Cheap for community groups. Tel: Ananda Marga, 728 8242.

PHOTO-COPYING. A4 and foolscap. 10 copies 30p; 25 copies 75p; 60 copies £1.20; 100 copies £1.60.— Impact Resource Centre, Waterloo Building, Cases Street, Liverpool 1. (051-708 7172)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: A ten-week course starting on January 19 at Millbank College to provide a broad understanding of what the individual's rights are in the areas of national insurance, supplementary benefits, housing and community involvement generally.

The aim is to give a guide to literature, groups and organisations which give specialist help and advice, to show that we don't need to be specialists to understand and act upon our rights.

The classes will be on Monday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning Jan. 19. Enrol at Millbank College, Bankfield Road, Liverpool 13 on Jan. 12 between 7 and 8 p.m.
For further details phone 220 4661 and ask for Gerry Gordon or Bill Grant.

EDUCATION

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION COURSES

Mondays:
Guide to Antiques. 12 meetings from Jan 5. 2 p.m. Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool.
Appreciation of Art and Architecture. 12 meetings from Jan 5. 2 p.m. Royal Institution.
Welsh Language and Literature. 10 meetings from Jan 5. 7.30 p.m. University Arts Library, Bedford St South.
Tuesdays:
Merseyside Gardens and Parks: Their birds and wildlife. 10 meetings from Jan 6. 2 p.m. Royal Institution.
Psychology and Human Understanding. 12 meetings from Jan 6. Royal Institution, 7.30. [In co-operation with Civil Service Council for Further Education].
Liverpool People and Places. 12 meetings from Jan 13. Central Library, William Brown Street, 7.30.
Appreciation of Popular Music. 12 meetings from Jan 13. University Arts Library, 7.30.
Industrial Relations. 10 meetings from Jan 6. Royal Institution, 6 p.m.
Mental Health and Mental Health Services. 10 meetings from Jan 13. Royal Institution, 7.30.

Wednesdays:
Spoken English and Our Literary Heritage. 12 meetings from Jan 7. Royal Institution, 2 p.m.
Tracing your Ancestry. 12 meetings from Jan 14. Central Library, 2 p.m.
Introduction to Money Economics. 10 meetings from Jan 7. Royal Institution, 2 p.m. [In co-operation with Civil Service Council for Further Education].
Tracing Your Ancestry. 12 meetings from Jan 14. Central Library, 6 p.m.
Astronomical Instruments and Discoveries. 10 meetings from Jan 14. County Museums, William Brown Street, 7.30 p.m. [In collaboration with University Institute of Extension Studies].
Politics and the Environment. 6 fortnightly meetings from Jan 14. University Arts Library, 7.30.
Philosophy of Tai-Chi. 6 meetings from Jan 7. Royal Institution, 7.30.

Thursdays:
Liverpool Vanished: Liverpool Vanishing. 12 meetings from Jan 15. Royal Institution, 11 a.m. [In collaboration with University Institute of Extension Studies].
Self Expression and Clear Thinking. 10 meetings from Jan 8. Royal Institution 6 p.m. (Same course also at 11 a.m. on Thursdays, with reduced fee for Liverpool Co-operative Society members).
Current Affairs. 10 meetings from Jan 15. Fazakerley/Warbrick Evening Institute, Sherwoods Lane, Liverpool 10 at 7 p.m.
Britain After the Romans. 8 meetings from Feb 5. Fazakerley/Warbrick Evening Institute, 7 p.m.

Fridays:
Thought and Communication. 12 meetings from Jan 9. Royal Institution, 2 p.m.
Current Affairs. 10 meetings from Jan 9. Royal Institution, 6 p.m. [In co-operation with Civil Service Council for Further Education].
The World of the Extra-Terrestrial. 6 meetings from Jan 9. Royal Institution, 6 p.m. (There's also a day school on the subject on Sat Jan 10 at 2.30, Fee 60p, OAPs 30p).
The Peoples, Culture and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East: An Introduction. 10 meetings from Jan 16. Royal Institution, 7.30.

You can enrol for any of these courses at the first meeting or write to Mr E Stebbing (Branch Secretary) WEA, 39 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX. Tel 709 8023. Course fees: 6 meetings—£1.70; 8—£2; 10—£2.40; 12—£2.80.

Our thanks to the Merseyside Arts Association for their help in compiling much of the information on these pages.

POLITICS

IRELAND: End British Interference. Conference organised by Polytechnic Students' Union. Sat Jan 17, 10.30—4.30. at Dept of Building, Clarence Street. Invited speakers include: a Labour MP; British Peace Committee, Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement, author and journalist), N. Ireland Women's Rights Movement, BWNIC. Tickets 15p from students' union. Tel 236 2481.

DISCUSSIONS at October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.
Sun Jan 11: Capitalist Russia, Socialist China.
Sun Feb 8: Britain— Socialist or Fascist?

PORTUGAL: Day school. Sat Jan 24, organised by Portuguese Workers Solidarity Committee (University and Merseyside groups). Includes film, Viva Portugal, discussions and workshops. Starts 10.00 in Old Union, University. Details from John Booker (sec.) Room U108 Philharmonic Court, Catherine Street, Liverpool 8.

PORTUGAL 1974—5: An alternative view. Open meeting organised by Solidarity. Also on Jan 24. Music Room, Students' Union, University. Details from News From Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

RED STAR FILM CLUB: Blood of the Condor — about enforced sterilisation of women in S. America. Fri, Jan 16, Leo McGree Centre, 39 Shaw Street, Liverpool 6. 7.45. Tickets 35p from Progressive Books, 12 Berry Street.

BEER

Tony Wilson

RUNNING parallel to the adulteration of beer over the last couple of decades has been a seemingly systematic attack on the beer drinker's physical environment. From the mid fifties onwards the suburban pub has been built to a standard shape and size using drab building materials and leaving no scope for eccentricity — no more really tiny pubs, no more "flat irons" and certainly nothing on a really grand scale like the "Vines". New street corner pubs just don't exist, and the planners are doing their best to demolish these locals over vast areas of the inner city.

The interior decor of pubs, old and new, leaves a lot to be desired — a uniformity of furnishings — perhaps there's only a couple of firms in the trade? — and brewers don't help by trying to impose standard "house liveries" often in pubs totally unsuited to the brewery choice of colours and styles.

I suppose we should be grateful for the "theme pub" seems to have failed locally — although we can still find suspended racing cars and interior of submarines in Liverpool pubs — other towns were inflicted with grottos, space ships and pirate ships.

Decoration is a matter of taste, as are juke boxes, fruit machines, pin tables, TV sets etc. My own preference would be not to have any of these intrusions and I guess I would not be alone in this view — but how often are the customers asked whether they want any of these?

Perhaps if consultation had taken place many pubs would now be places for conversation again. The brewery

people seem to be very poor at consultation, otherwise I doubt whether quite so many pubs would be remodelled or built from the outset without a public bar.

More space = more customers = more profit would no doubt be the brewery philosophy. No matter if the wood and glasswork have to be destroyed. Who needed that little snug anyway? Why keep a dart board when only 'Old Joe' plays?

Why also is it always the case that the prices are bumped up to the best to demolish these locals over vast areas of the inner city? Methinks it's a further case of profits before people. I'll return to the vexed topic of the public bar in a future article. Meanwhile readers may care to let me know any of their own experiences of re-vamped pubs or removal of public bars.

BRIEFLY...

'The Griffin', Copperas Hill has gone over to chilled and filtered beer and should be deleted from the "Good Beer Guide 1975".

The party season is still in full swing which makes it all the more sad that, as far as I'm aware, none of our local brewers supply barrels of traditional beer to private purchasers. I'm sure a demand exists — so how about it?

Walker's "Falstaff" is still remembered with affection, and the current cold weather would be just right for a warming winter beer on draught. In the absence of "Falstaff" how about Hignons providing their excellent "Stingo" in draught form?

To join CAMRA send £2 to 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. For local events contact Tony Wilson 9 Hooton Road, Liverpool L9 4SF (521 5967).

EXHIBITIONS

CERI RICHARDS and the Liverpool Roman Catholic Cathedral. Designs for the stained glass, the reredos, the tabernacle and the altar frontal. Until April 11. Walker Art Gallery.

HILLS, MILLS AND FOLK. Paintings of a remembered Lancashire by Fred Wilde. Jan 7—24. Bluecoat Gallery.

SILVER DREAMS and Silver Fantasies. Retrospective exhibition by George Jardine to celebrate 25 years as a Liverpool Academy member. Jan 9—30. Academy Gallery.

GERMAN EXPRESSIONIST prints from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Jan 3—25. Sudley Art Gallery.

JAPANESE prints and 19th century paintings. Jan 8—Feb 8. Allerton Gallery.

THE CAMERA AND THE SAILING SHIP. A North-West Museum and Art Gallery Service Exhibition. Until Jan 14. Bootle Library.

CREATIVE CERAMICS. A North-West Museum and Art Gallery Service Exhibition. At Bootle Library until Jan 21 and then at Crosby Library (Jan 21—Feb 23).

JEAN WILD. Paintings. Neptune Theatre Gallery. Jan 5—30.

NEW SHIPPERIES exhibition. From the museum's extensive collection of ship models, relics, paintings and documents. Until June. County Museum.

ABC OF MINERALS. Display of minerals from the museum's collection and elsewhere. Until April 4. County Museum.

AMSTERDAM 700. Exhibition of early printed books and prints to mark the 700th anniversary of the founding of the city. Liverpool City Libraries, William Brown Street. Mon—Fri 9 a.m.—9 p.m. Sat 9—5. Until Feb 28.

PERMANENT display and sale of work by British artist/craftsmen. Pottery, jewellery, weaving, woodwork etc. Bluecoat Display Centre.

WHERE

ACADEMY GALLERY 65 Renshaw Street, Liverpool. 709 4088.

ALLERTON GALLERY 117 Allerton Road, L'pool 13. 724 5206. Open Mon—Fri 10.00—6.00, Wed and Sat 10.00—1.00

BLUECOAT HALL School Lane, Liverpool 709 5689. Tues—Fri 10.30—5.00. Sat 10.00—2.30. (Display Centre open Tues—Fri 10.30—5.30; Sat 10.30—2.30)

BOOTLE LIBRARY Oriol Road, Bootle. 922 4040. Mon—Fri 9.00—7.00; Sat 9.00—1.00.

COUNTY MUSEUM William Brown Street, Liverpool. 207 0001. Mon—Sat 10.00—5.00; Sun 2.00—5.00.

CROSBY LIBRARY Crosby Road North. 928 6487. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30—8.00; Thurs 9.30—1.00; Sat 9.30—5.00.

NEPTUNE GALLERY Neptune Theatre, Hanover Street, Liverpool. 709 7844. Mon—Fri 10.00—2.30; Sat 10.00—12.00.

SUDLEY ART GALLERY Mossley Hill Road, Liverpool 18. 724 3245. Mon—Sat 10.00—5.00; Sun 2.00—5.00.

WALKER ART GALLERY William Brown Street, Liverpool. 207 1371. Mon—Sat 10.00—5.00. (Open till 8 p.m. Thurs); Sun 2.00—5.00.

WILLIAMSON ART GALLERY Slaty Road, Birkenhead. Mon—Sat 10.00—5.00 (Thurs till 9 p.m.); Sun 2.00—5.00.

POETRY

GAZEBO: Bottom of Duke Street, Liverpool 1. Third Tues every month.

WHY NOT? (pub): Harrington Street, off N. John Street, Liverpool 1. Last Thurs each month (except Aug and Dec).

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE. Normally last Fri each month. Phone Alistaire Patterson 709 6022 ext 3047 for details.

WINDOWS: HALEWOOD LIBRARY Details from David Ward, 46 Elsinore Heights, Halewood. Tel: 486 2172. (Normally last Wed each month, but some variations).

BURNS NIGHT. Jan 19. Celebration in prose, poetry and song by David Daiches, John Laurie and Cathy Stuart. Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street, 7.45. (Admission 75p).

JABBERWOCKY: Jan 14 at Overton Hall, Wirral Country Park, Thurston, 8 p.m. Jan 21 at Friends Meeting House, Heswall, 8 p.m.