PGRAS A 3-piece from Barnsley who have just released their 1st single

A 3-piece from Barnsley who have just released their 1st single 'ROW THE BOAT ASHORE'/'POISON' on their own Party Day label. They have been described variously as a thrash band & 'like the Danse Society', though neither is anywhere near the mark....

Unfortunately Mike, the drummer, couldn't make it to the interview. He was out celebrating his birthday last week & fell on his head. At the time of typing he is still in hospital with concussion.

Anyway, enough of the intros & the excuses, here's the interview.....

LEN: Obvious question first, where did you get your name from?

MARTIN: Well, we had a song called Party Day which we wrote about 12 month ago, & so we took it from there. We didn't have a name for 6 months.

LEN: You've been going since 1981....

MARTIN: Yeah, we were 'The Further Experiments' to start off & then we split & reformed minus the guitarist & so I took over on guitar &...

CARL:we tried various new members.....

MARTIN:yeah..

CARL: .. keyboards, but they didn't fit in...

MARTIN: ...no-one good enough!

CARL: ...in Barnsley anyway.

LEN: So you're staying a 3-piece?

MARTIN: Yeah.



LEN: I never heard of you till recently. When did You start doing gigs?

MARTIN: We did lots when we first started, as the 'Experiments', more based round Barnsley, & when we got on our feet we branched out. We've now played in Sheffield, Leeds, York, Manchester, Wakefield.....

LEN: What's Barnsley like, to get going in, as a band?

MARTIN: Hard really, a lot of people don't want to see a band,.....they just like to go & get pissed up, that's it. But we've got quite a good following there now, in Barnsley. We did our first gig at the Civic Hall & lost a load of money...we'd fill it now though I reckon. LEN: Do you feel stuck in the local set-up, like a lot of bands?

MARTIN: I think the way to break out is this single, it should bring us more attention & publicity, bookings....

CaRL: That's it, it's like Catch 22...

can't play there?

MaRTIN: We tried to get on at the Rock Garden, in London. We sent them a tape & they said very good ,like, but we'll not put you on because nobody's heard of you. And how can anybody hear of us if we

LEN: John Peel does all he could possibly do though.

MARTIN: Yeah, well John Peel, that's it. We've got a single & it's just got to get plenty of radio time. Peely played it last week, & he's playing it Tuesday.

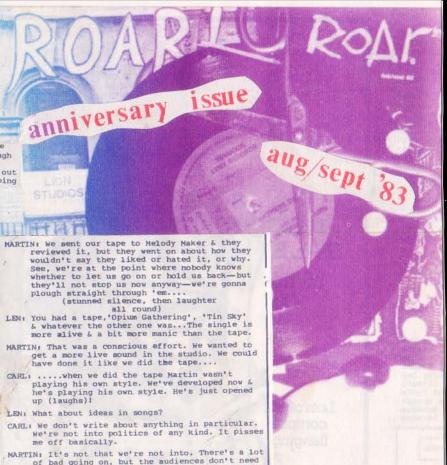
LEN: Now for the usual cliché question...who do you listen to, or what are your influences? Everybody who reviews you likens you to someone else!

CARL: We all like the same kind of music, Bansheestype, but we don't base our music on them.

MARTIN: We've been going 3 years now, & after that you're not influenced really. We know what to do, & we don't think 'oh I'il play the guitar like that' cos I play it the way I want to play it, he plays it the way he plays it, & so on. We listen to all kinds of bands...amy music we can appreciate....we've been likened to The Comsat Angels, The Cure, Slouxie, but we're not like them at all...



LEN: Shat about reviews? You've had some good ones in Leeds.....



MARTIN: It's not that we're not into. There's a lot of bad going on, but the audiences don't need to be told that. I mean, why go on about it? After the news, & the political bits in the NHE (1) & so on...the sort of politics we go on about are relationships. We're big fans of Leonard Cohen!

(hysterial)

Brilliant!