

Once upon a morning when the world seemed so dull, so lifeless, with old men trampling through the snow to buy their Woodbines, a delightful sound interrupted the early morning silence here at TIC headquarters. Upon investigation it was the arrival of an ominous looking parcel, which upon further investigation contained a copy of the debut single by Barnsley band Party Day...

"How The Boat Ashore"/"Poison" (Party Day Records) installed into me that perhaps not everyone in this big bad world was succumbing to the presence of the winter's first heavy snowfall...people out there were actually distributing wonderful records. Anyway, having listened to the record, there was no hesitation on my behalf to accept their manager, Steve's invitation to their gig at Bradford College to witness at work the purveyors of such a fine sound, and to interview them at will...

We met Steve, Carl (vocals/bass), Martin (guitar/backing vocals) and Michael (drums) before they played, and found they had the following to say...

- Does the name suggest some sort of celebration?

Mike - Well, perhaps but you can look at it in a number of ways, you can see it in a sarcastic way, or you can take it as if you'd come out for a good night, a party.

- Is there one member of the band who directs the lyrics and the sound?

Mike - Well, we do what we want, you know, the songs we like.

Carl - We don't seem to look at it as any direction, it just happens.

- Are you optimistic you'll stay together as a band?

Carl - Well as we are now I think we're content for a few more years yet.

- Have you thought of putting lyric sheets in with singles?

Martin - Yeah, we did think of that, and we might be doing with the next one, but we didn't with the first because it had the sleeve...

(The infamous sleeve, the one with the orange fluorescent cover)

- How much do you relate to your audience?

Mike - Well, if they're not gonna like it from the start, you can't make them like it, they either take it or leave it. But we do manage to satisfy most audiences we usually get a good response, lets hope it carries on...

(At this point, the Scottish 'Falling And Laughing' representative says..."Ask them what their mummies and daddies think")

Martin - He's a sarcastic sod innit?

- Does the audience reaction mean a lot to you?

Martin - We have to try and win them over I suppose cos they've paid to see us. But usually once they've paid to see you, they virtually know what they're getting, theres not a lot of people that will go see a band they've never heard of, they've either heard a record or something you know.

Let's have a PARTY (DAY)!



At this point, proceedings are interrupted by the evening's ether entertainment, the Creatures Of Habit, who come into the dressing room to change and 'limber' up. As a result, conversation loses a bit of momentum, and in true journalistic fashion, we clutch at straws and find ourselves repeating the subject of lyric sheets...

- Do you see the idea of a lyric sheet as a further projection of yourselves?

Mike - Oh yeah, we want to project our ideas. We're trying to push the music more than any image cos we haven't really got a very strong image. You know, we're not punks, we've got no really strong direction, we just play music we like playing and hope that people like it, so far it's proved alright.

- Do you think that not having a strong image has hindered you at all?

Mike - It has a bit, it's slowed us down, but we think it's better to build up slowly.

Interruption time again, as Carl and "Falling And Laughing" person discuss the pros and cons of playing bass and singing at the same time. Meanwhile, the nerve of your roving TIC reporters suddenly takes a blow as Creature Of Habit Anton expresses his disapproval of our occupation of the dressing room, because he usually likes to get psyched up for going on stage by "hitting walls and things..." (what sort of things I immediately begin to wonder!). All in a day's work I suppose, anyway, ever onward...

- Are there any particular ideas you'd like to project as a symbol of the band?

Mike - We have thought about it, but we can't come up with any ideas, because we don't want to make it directional.

Martin - The thing about images is that they just burn out, and we're not thinking about burning out for a few years to come, so we're not going to latch onto

image.
I want your music to last a longer than just 15 minutes same?

Martin - Yeah, we don't just want to jump onto the next bandwagon coming round the corner. We'll let them pass, and they might get their 15 mins, but we'll still be around when they've all died down.

- How much is the fame aspect of being in a band?

Martin - That is a big attraction at first, I mean at first, I thought after a couple of gigs someone would see us, drag us off, and bang...superstars.

After a heated argument between Party Day and the Creatures Of Habit about what time they should be going on, we get onto the subject of gigs. (At this point, we should mention that Party Day were looking after the interests of your TIC reporters...you see, we had to catch the last bus home, and Party Day were concerned that we'd have to leave before they went on. OK, OK, I knew what you're thinking, but when it's snowing outside, the comfort of your own bed is a much greater attraction than somebody's cold, uninviting floor!) Anyway...

- Have you got many gigs lined up?

Mike - Steve's hoping to get a couple of London dates, but there's definitely a Holland tour lined up for April, cos we've been exporting a lot of singles to Holland, and we're trying to get a few Belgium dates on the end of the Holland tour.

- Talking about Belgium, in 'Whippings And Apologies' fanzine you said something about a Belgian EP, what is that?

- Catch 22 10 (25p from Kevin, 2nd floor, 124 Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7JX)
Now this is more like it, a change of scene, a change of style, and Catch 22 is back with vengeance. Although this emerged in mid-83, it's still an essential read for any self-respecting independent. Pages and pages of jumbled, mumbled, scattered tape, zine and record reviews combined with attractive articles on the Tempest, Le Lu-lu's, Yugoslavia and Martin Newell's appreciation or otherwise of 'music'. Buy, buy, buy... (Oh, if only 'Punkers Unite' etc. could see how, with a bit more care, a fanzine can look.)

- Crash Smash Bash Trash 5 (30p from James Nice, 80 Morningside Drive, Morningside, Edinburgh)
Another delightful A5 beauty - stuffed to the gills with the Wake, And Also The Trees, Death In June, Crosswires, beetleleg info, reviews and an essay on Malaria (no, no, no, the band not the affliction...)

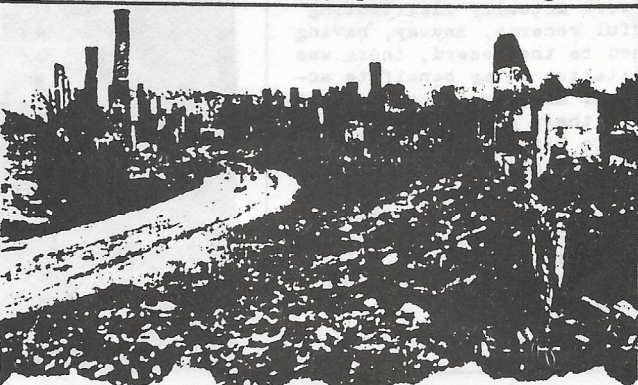
- Attack On Bzaz 5 (20p from Jimmy Bzaz, 1 Granby Grove, Leeds LS6 3BE, West Yorks.)
This just gets better and better with every ish. no.3 was good, no.4 was bordering on the very good, and no.5 is bloody marvellous. 24 pages of Bzaz literature and lunacy. read the adventures of Zelda's stomach, be amazed at the (improvised) John Peel interview, oggle at Jon Langford's excellent (once again) cover, be swept off your feet by the epilogue of The Invasion Of The Things, and marvel at the wit of those wacky Bzazers-Jimmy Bzaz and Sik O'War. Oh yeah....I almost forgot, interviews with the Redskins, and Billy Bragg, and articles on the Tempest and the Newtown Neuretics manage to squeeze themselves in along the way.

- A Feeble Effort 1 (15p from Gary, Weals Bungalow, Newcastle Road, Craven Arms, Salop)

Why are people so obsessed with false modesty? or is it that the title is delivered in tongue-in-cheek fashion (heard that somewhere before), in which case I missed out on the joke. Anyway, enough of my rambblings, this features, amongst others, Born BC, the Nightingales, the Sears, Joolz' poetry, Flowers In The Dustbin, Passion Killers and the Accused, all done up in a musky blue print on a snowy-white backdrop. Cute, huh?

- Molotov Comics 7 (30p from Swells, Flat3, Belle Vue House, Belle Vue Road, Leeds 3)

Now this one has a 'green and pleasant' cover (even cuter) and features poetry/rambling from Swells himself, Joolz, Mark Miwurdz, Ginger John, Willi Beckitt, Nick Toczek and Benjamin Zephaniah, and as usual the excellent, disturbing graphics and collages.



- Whippings And Apologies 7 (40p from 4 Walmsley Road, Leeds LS6 1NG)

The glossiest of the abundance of fanzines coming from this area, and certainly one of the best. This latest issue has the Skeletal Family, Party Day, the membranes and the Red Guitars plus lotsa reviews.

- New Youth 2 (30p from Swift Nick, 26 Ella Street, Newland Avenue, Hull)

Not much to say about this that hasn't already been said, except that it's marvellous. Includes New Model Army, the Tempest, International Rescue, SGC and Les Zeigle Fleurs; Banshees and Cure reviews; ranting poetry by Swift Nick and others and bucketfuls of information. The politics are 'spot on' (for want of a better phrase), so join the crusade, "Spread the word....unity". Oh yeh, almost forgot, there's also a free badge with this issue too.

- 3rd Edition (15p from Donna, 12 Elsdon Drive, Forest Hall, Newcastle-On-Tyne, NE12 9HH)

This has to be the bargain of the year...32 pages for 15p...packed with the likes of the Skeletal Family, Subtle Mania, Reptiles, Membranes (They get everywhere don't they...), Flowers In The Dustbin and articles on Marc Bolan, and Foxhunting. Also tape/zine/film/gig reviews by the score.

- Deadbeat (10p from Mr. Gob, 48 Orchard Lane Avenue, Edinburgh)

I've seen a couple of rave reviews about this, but the couple of issues I've seen have been dreadful. Write and decide for yourself.

- Bones (Tony, 147 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex)

Now no longer I'm afraid, but you may be able to get some back-leaflets, all of which were both interesting and informative.

- The Positive Touch 3 (30p from Andy, 3 Sandal Avenue, Sandal, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF2 7LP)

Bordering on the 'peppy' side of the market, this (rather dated issue by now I suspect) issue offers us entertainment

in the form of the Thompson Twins, the Bunniymen, and more-local heroes Fiat Lux and Colenso Parade. One of a host of good mags coming from this area, and long may it continue, and by the way...sorry Andy for not writing earlier, I'm sure you know how it is...

- Subversive Society 1 (15p? from A. Harper, 7 Cedar Ave. Ickleford, Hitchin, Herts.)

- No Visible Scar 4 (18p from Craig, 1/ Percy Road, Renfrew, Scotland PA4 8AZ)

- Punkers Unite 2 (what??? 20p from Mart, 92 Marlborough Road, Penlan, Cardiff CF2 5BY)

Don't know how old these are, but we really are back down to the basics again. Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking 'punkzines' (as we are wont to call them), there are some extremely valid ones around (Never Surrender, Final Curtain etc.), but these...?? Rebels without a cause anybody

- Dressed To Kill 1 (25p from Bense, The White House, Alton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire)
This is a fine debut, owing much to Steve (return Of The Naive zine) who offered much advice and encouragement, without taking anything away from Bense's admirable efforts. Full of bands, reviews, opinions...more specifically King Aurt, Anti-System, 4Skins, Criminal Justice, Xeset Un, vivisection, the Ecology Party and much more.

- Anxious 3 (30p from Julia, 53 Portlaine St, Belfast BT6 9BE)

Interesting and attractive fanzine featuring 1919, Ruefrefx, Silence Of Fear, The Storm, the Alternative, reviews and lots of poetry.

- The Bob And Tanner (1'6)

If anyone can supply me with an address to write to 'Jack Union' and 'Bulldog' (too scared to put your address inside are we kiddies?) who are responsible for this filthy, racist, sexist drivel, then it would be most appreciated. Perhaps then, we could straighten up a few points concerning their views about homosexuality, blacks and their glorification of violence. It sickens me that they have the nerve to call this filthy propaganda a fanzine. enough said...for the moment.

- Allied Propaganda 8 (30p from, well, I think the AP team have moved northwards, but I don't know the new address, so you'll have to find it elsewhere)

Anyway, onto AP 8, which offers the best full interview you could ever hope to read, along with the Committee, Shriekback, Anne Clark, and a very extensive fanzine review section, all in glossy, reduced type, making it one of the better value buys on the market.

- Between Thy Hips 1 (20p from block 2, Flat 3, Pixhall Walk, Castle Vale, Birmingham)

The 'kabuki' magazine - now known as Ausgang (you do read ZigZag don't you?). Worth buying for the excellent artwork and photographs alone

Try as you may, you can't keep a good Party quiet...

Martin - Yeah, well there's four bands from the North of England, and we're all contributing to this 12" EP that's gonna be out soon in Belgium. All the bands are in the same vein, there's the Red Guitars, Red Lorry Yellow Lorry, March Violets were going to be on, but they're too big now, or so they reckon, so the other band is the Luddites.

- Coming from the Barnsley area do you think the Danse Society's success has helped you at all?

Martin - No, I don't think so. Mike - Well, we knew them, but that's as far as it goes.

- Does it annoy you that people associate you with the D.Society?

Mike - Not really, it pushes it a bit more, but it might be a couple of years before we get anywhere, but once we do, we should get our own recognition.

Carl - Nobody says to the Danse Society "Eh, do you know Saxon?"

We now get the news that it's started snowing again, that's all we needed, but more about that later. Firstly, what about Steve as a manager?

Martin - Steve deals with us fairly straight-forward, he started off taking photos of us, then he got us a gig, and we just got lazy and made him get us more.

- So he's got no grand design for you?

Mike - He wants us to be further on in a year than we are now.

Carl - I think it's part of his life, quite honestly. He goes out to work to finance us.

Mike - You know, we can't because we haven't got jobs, but he goes to work so we can get bank loans for singles and that.

Martin - When he hears about us arguing, he says he's getting another band.

Mike - Yeah, he can take things a bit seriously.

Martin - He's a really serious bloke, but his heart's in the right place, and he does have to take a lot of stick off us. He gets us dates, organises recordings, you know, it'd have to be something really desperate before we got a new manager...we're really happy with him.

- Are you under Flexible Response agency?

Mike - Yeah we are.

- Do you get many gigs through them?

Martin - Well, we've only just got them working for us.

- Are you hopeful that they can help you a lot?

Martin - We're hopeful that they can help, and they probably will, but we don't expect too much from them, cos they're learning, just like us.

Conversation then touches on the subject of gigs in London, and Martin fondly (sic) recalls his experiences in the toilets of the Embassy Club when they inadvertently found themselves playing on the Gay night.

Carl - There were guys walking around with shorts and greased legs.

Martin - There were two bands on and we were last. But first there was this disco band, fairly usual for them, then we came on and opened with a really powerful song, and they just shit themselves, straight to the back of the room!

And on this note, we finished. Photos were taken, handshakes exchanged, and then to our surprise Party Day offered us a lift home, ignoring the fact that it would take them about 20 miles out of their way. So we settled down, enjoyed a tremendous performance by the band and then helped (or should that be hindered) them load the gear into the van.

It was then that the fun started...the aforementioned snow, which I'm not fond of at the best of times, carried on falling, so much so that the van wouldn't start. So, while Steve frantically tried to work out how Party Day, the Creatures Of Habit and several friends were going to get back to Barnsley, Martin and ourselves, expressing such devoted loyalty, trekked off in search of the nearest curry house! I never realised how well hot curry and cold snow mix together!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, it became obvious that the van wasn't going to start, so the manager of the place re-opened the bar, bottles and cans were bought for warmth during the cold night ahead, the two bands and friends all crashed on someone's floor, and your intrepid reporters, with cellars upturned and noses red set off on foot...

Nearly four hours later, having almost being run over by a particularly active milkman, our heads hit the sack, and somehow, during the forthcoming hours, my toes gradually thawed out.

Next day, Steve rang to make sure we had got home safely...as Martin said, this guy's all heart.

PARTY DAY

