



THE GO BETWEENS: "She's from Ireland, She's very beautiful/ I come from Brisbane and I'm quite plain!/ She's from the mountains so close to heaven/ Stars on her shoes, clouds on her breasts!/ And Iyi Yiyi Yi love Lee Remick!"

was the night, before when there were all these parties and boat trips and things that got you drunk or whatever. Then all the happy students went into town and started lighting fires in rubbish bins and kicking in windows til the main attraction of the beating of the pigs started. It was pretty wild but there was nothing political about it, so when the cops banned Window Shopping, Union Nights started to keep the students off the streets.

What about the bands at that time.

Early 70 bands? (Laughs uproariously). Thump Thump Thump Twang at 120 decibels. See in the 70's the Discos were mostly closed. A few in pubs. All the others went to night clubs. Heavy Metal Music was on the brain.

See there was this character called John Hein who started managing bands or rather manufacturing them. All his bands played Black Sabbath

"Then all these happy students went into town and began lighting fires in rubbish bins and smashing windows, till the main attraction of the beating of the Pigs started."

It wasn't till 1970 that the Uni started to get OK. The Rads started organising happenings with bands like Shepherd and McKenzies Theory. HARPO - How About Resisting Powerful Organisations was the group that did dances at the Uni in the early 70's. When they started they were just this group who couldn't stand the student union Brass Union Nights. Really poppy garbage with hay rides and things.

So Harpo started doing all these dances and organised lectures by Ginsberg and Phil Ochs. The Revolution had been delayed but was on the way, so we hung round watching the pretty lights and the talented bands which was better than being in the city.

How were things in the city at this time?

Terrible. The early 70's were really a state of decline. See the whole music scene became fucked world wide. It just fragmented. Before the whole age group 14 - 24 were pretty much all into the same type of music.

In the 70's this changed into bubble gum music for the youngsters, heavy metal Led Zepplin stuff for the 18 year olds, and Glen Campbell shit for the mature audiences. This all came down on the local scene and messed it up.

How?

Well for example take radio. The early 70's saw the rise of wonder 4IP. 4BC was still plugging along after Tony Mc Carthur left in 68. They brought in Mike Ahern. They'd have Festival Hall things where they'd have hundreds chanting "I shall have no leader but my leader Mike Ahern!" Weird.

Still 4IP went straight for the boppers. Bubble Gum Music, squeaky clean DJ's in uniform coats. By the 70's the boppers grew up. They kept their allegiance (though some say they were brainwashed) and you had ya top rating 4IP and 4BC was in the cold with racing calls.

It was dreadful but worse it got a lot of the bands off side with halls what with the pensioner five streets away who couldn't hear her husband snoring complaining.

So what were the people doing at this time.

They were being Hippies, man. Or Counterculturalists it was by then. See 1973 was Nimbin. From 1970 on it had been drugs. Grass and acid and speed for the weirdos. Like it was big and it

South.

But in the Sixties the local bands all had their fan clubs and shit. And Southern bands were "also" big.

Were there any good bands at the time?

The bands at this time were on the professional music trip. You know, A Man and His Music. Getting it 'together in the 'far out' jam. There's no denying their competence, gee, the audience just sat there admiring them.

"They'd get on stage and swish their hair about and twirl their arms down on the guitar playing riffs."

was a big deal to be "doing" dope. It wasn't at every Liberal Party BBQ.

Like later the breed apart existed then. The Alternatives. You were either straight or crooked. In the scene or out of it (or rather not out of it.)

Carol Lloyd and Railroad Gin you could dance to, but other ones like Silas Farm you just sat and listened to and tried to throw in "Wow! Far out!" or just got bombed and watched the light show. Not much social milieu in that.

Where was this drug scene happening.

The University had the entertainment I guess, but there was a lot of hanging round in the city. Willi's Bazzar where the strip club in Petrie Bight now is was big. Just a late night coffee shop where all these people sat with one cup of coffee between them. Stretched out. Playing mind games. Looking to score. Hanging round. Course later there were tourists and plain clothes.

You've obviously seen the full development of the Brisbane scene. How do you see that it could become good again and start moving.

Look the Sixties won't come again. Ever hear of the Baby Boom? All those soldiers coming home from the war and having a good time. 1945 - 1956. The Baby Boom kiddies were all teenagers in between '64 and '70.

That was the most number of teenagers as a proportion of the population that there will probably ever be. Do you know what it was like to have that number power and to be part of the Youth Revolution.

Swarms of teenagers all dancing to the same beat. Looking for a good time. Listen, in the '60's it was nothing to have a thousand people at something. No trouble at all. Parties. Two or three hundred people could go to one in a night.

Don't believe me? Listen they had this thing called the Treasury Step Mob. One or two hundred people sitting on the Treasury Steps in Queen Street, waiting to be told about parties. Any parties.

You'd go to 5 or 6 parties in a night. Just cruise. Eat the food, drink grog and move on. Course you bought your

Of course there wasn't anything in the city like this. Town venues didn't encourage to sit around going "far out". The city was just discovering discos in the mid 70's. I remember when the first one opened. Waves it was called at the majestic Hotel.

The explanation they gave us was to widen the audience's 'musical appreciation'. You know; hear the latest overseas bands, be knowledgeable at parties, impress your friends with your record collection.

Course it caught on. The Hierarchy. Overseas is better than Australian is better than Brisbane. Course the local bands deserved it. No-one got anywhere in Brisbane let alone down

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own grog usually if you wanted to survive.

We weren't crazed gate-crashers smashing things, just two or three hundred uninvited guests. The pigs broke that up in the Seventies. Charged people with loitering with intent to crash parties or something.

There were all these people walking through a slack party and walking out. You knew that your party was slack if the gate-crashers didn't stay.

But anyway what makes a good scene? You gotta have all the market onto something, 14 - 25 and older. That'll give you a social milieu.

Watching the crowds. You can't have it exclusively Uni students or something. Anyway Uni students aren't great raggers. They conserve brain cells.

You shouldn't have musical appreciation bands in the sense that entertainment is sitting listening to a Man and His Music. Like the highest Rock 'n' Roll praise is "It's gotta beat. You can dance to it".

That's why Disco is so big. It's just that it took this message only to the crass, the overwhelmingly stupid 4IP listening types who, unfortunately, are the majority in this world.

Besides as long as there aren't too many of them, it's amusing watching them "catching on" to something.

Besides they give respectability to a place. The police Sargeant looks in and thinks "Hmmm, there's a few weirdos here, but there's one of my sort of people sitting by the bar in the white shoes. Must be OK!"

what do you think of the Punk scene here in Brisbane now?

Punks been in Brisbane a few years now from 1976 at least. You could nearly say it started here or was developing here at the same time as in England!

The Saints of course came from Brisbane. Their single "(I'm) Stranded" was one of the first top 40 punk hits in England. So there's a Brisbane claim to fame.

Did you see The Saints when they were in Brisbane?

Once. In a place called "The Dive" in the Valley. They were playing with the Leftovers who are still around the ridges.

What was it like?

There was a fight. Leftover fans



Ed Wreckage (of the Leftovers) and Tracey. "All I wanted was happiness/ but they leave my body in such a mess/ Cigarettes and Alcohol/ Cigarettes and Alcohol Cigarettes and Alcohol by the Leftovers

couldn't stand The Saints. Maybe 50 or so people who all started laying into each other. Chairs, tables flying around the place.

Then these two cops wandered in. Forces of Law and Order. They were turfed out the window. Then all these cops and detectives rolled in and everyone split.

Since then the police have known that punks existed.

Got any scandals to tantalise the sensation craving minds of our readers.

Like about how a 4IP disc jockey got sucked off in the Electric Circus?

Or about the person the cops first suspected had firebombed The Whisky Au Go Go, where all those people got killed, who the cops described as a known extortionist, a seller of drugs to children and a homosexual?

Yeah, Yeah!

Nah, I don't know any stories like that.



RAZAR perform 'TASK FORCE', Brisbane's punk anthem

Task Force, Task Force, how we love you! Task Force, Task Force, sirens above you! Task Force, Task Force, think you're tops! Task Force, you undercover cops! You're bacon (over wailing police siren) Oink! Oink! Oink! Oink! Oink! Oink! Task Force!

Do you know about the supposed Punk Task Force?

You remember that story about the cops being thrown out of the window at the Dive? Well they were members of a group called "Murphy's Maudraders" sent to clear up the Valley.

According to lawyers I've spoken to they were the dregs of the Queensland Police, you know the dumb ones, the ones with a drinking problem and so on.

Well they cleaned up the Valley mainly by the method of sticking a policeman with a walkie talkie every six feet. Alternatively, there's probably a lot of dregs in the Queensland Police.

Well, they did such a good job that they were made into the Task Force. Now the job of the Task Force is to go into "problem areas" and clean up "trouble spots".

They're not specifically for going after the Punks it's just that a punk dance to them is a trouble spot.

According to this lawyer source a lot of the harassment is due to the police wanting to score some overtime. See they're supposed to be off duty from 10pm but if they can pick up a few easy multiple arrests at a trouble spot to take back to the Watchhouse then they're busy to 1am or so on time and a half. Pretty good lurk, hey?

This is why you never see the local police sargeant turn up at a punk dance, go to the organiser and say "We've had some noise complaints. Turn it down and I'll be back at 11.30 to see that it finishes" and then go off to catch burglars or something.

No, it's 10 or 15 detectives swaggering into the dance about 9.30, menace everyone, arrest a few people for saying fuck, report the dance as a "trouble spot" to headquarters and then hang around till it finishes for a few more arrests and a bit more overtime.

Beats trying to do something socially useful like picking up drunken real estate salesmen.

Have the police always harassed Rock 'n' Roll in Brisbane?

No, in the 60's police only turned up at venues very rarely and only in response to a complaint; a bad fight had broken out or something and they'd been called.

From about the time of the Springbok

Tour in '71 the police became more the upholders of public morals at least of the young. People became long haired hippie radicals whose crime was 'so much' smoking dope but as evildoers working to overthrow our society.

As such the police began harassing segments of youth as part of their "moral duty". The young were commies or dupes of commies and the police were out to clean up the sickness.

At the time most of the dance activities were at Uni which has a measure of protection against the police but anything held in the suburbs would have a few

When every bank clerk started to wear long hair around '74, the identifiable segment of commie radicals became that much harder for the Qld police to recognize and besides by '74 most of the commie radicals had disappeared.

In '77 and '78 when the punks came along the police found a new target. The Right to March demonstrators had most of the south east Queensland police force standing on the road in the sun looking at the assorted demonstrators.

In this motley assembly they must have started to recognize the short haired weirdoes some of which had green hair and wondered about them. Now you can imagine the effect a green haired idiot has on the Qld police. Loathing, distaste, hatred.

Now these short haired weirdoes at the same time had a musical/cultural message going, which brought in new people. Every month of '78 saw new members of the "punk" community and pretty soon you had a "movement" even if its base message was around: "Rod Stewart Sucks"

Now in Qld you had this group growing that was political with vague ideas of Anarchy and now you have the Qld Special Branch as the first cops through the door at punk dances. They're not there to stop swearing etc like you're arrested for, it can only be to harass this new movement, to nip in the bud this new "sickness".

I don't think it's working. Punk is picking up more people in Brisbane every month because "things can happen" at a suburban dance there are increasing attendances.

Whats the future of the Brisbane Music Scene?



13 hot nites in a row/ the cops drive past and they move slow/ A million people staying low/ with mangoes ripe who needs to know I dont want to let down/ my hopes for this town/ its so hard to get around/ lots of cars but not much sound. I've got to feel I'm being used/ In a scheme that's been hidden from the public view/ Its guarded by the sea a prison island that's not free

Brisbane - Security City - The Saints

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Brisbane has a developed New Wave/Punk scene. For the new wavers you have The Riptides who have aided the careers of the Sharks, Apartments, Poles and The Supports. Together with the Go Betweens these groups make up the Abel Label stable, playing variations of a sixties beat.

On the other hand you have the 'political' punk bands, The Leftovers, Razar, Fuji Angels and Zero with a motley crew of Pinkos, Bex Crystals and Hard-Ons.

On the fringes of this there is the respectable Humans, the up and coming Scrap Metal, the reforming for a month Fuller Banks and Bruce Anton with a new band called The Bees - Chris Logan's not in it.

The John Hein musicians of such notables as Touch or Phoenix, the tired cabaret of Wickety Wak and Seasons of the Witch are finis. Disco is wiping the floor with them

One strange thing is the commercial radio ignoring the whole scene. Probably because they don't want to give publicity to 4ZZZ. Commercial radio ignores the interstate and overseas bands appearing at Cloudland, they've ignored the local records and dances.

ZZZ are carrying on an incredible promotion operation. Unique in Australia probably. Large concerts every week, three or four thousand people. There's nothing like it in Sydney or Melbourne. A string of venues, band management, tour organisation and general contact point. They've pretty well swamped Brisbane with Live Music and done it more or less alone.

Commercial radio was pushed into the Support Disco camp. Disco isn't going to wipeout live music. No one is out there dreaming of being in a band with Donna Summer. Rock is based on a kid with a guitar playing House of the Rising Sun or something, not consuming clothes, clothes, hairstyles, cocktails at a Disco.



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You've got to have people going out to see the local Brisbane bands. These bands have to be progressing, putting on a performance. This business of new bands coming out and playing five songs is a wank, especially if three of them are originals. Forty five minute brackets that have people dancing.

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