

# sarah newsletter

april 1993 no.3

Orange this time I think.

In celebration of the fruit.

And we'll start with a brief round-up of what's happened over the last 3 months, since some of our release dates proved a little deceptive...

Well - SARAHs 70 to 73 have all entered the world safely and look lovely. **SARAH 70** was a small square multicoloured fanzine package enclosing a small circular see-through flexidisc - a live recording of **BLUEBOY's** "Cloud Babies" (from a gig at The Mean Fiddler last summer); it was, and is, available from us for 50p + SAE. Incidentally, sending SAEs smaller than the record doesn't honestly help (you'd be surprised how many...) - nor do foreign stamps on the envelope, since we don't live abroad, though I suppose it's a gesture. As is this: [visual joke - doesn't really come across on paper]. You're all a bit bloody strange at times, aren't you? No offence.

**SARAH 71**, meanwhile, was **SECRET SHINE's** "Loveblind" - recipient of no less than 3 plays on Mark Goodier, apparently - something we'll have to take on trust, obviously, though a letter yesterday asking them to play a Sixth Form College in Taunton would tend to imply its truth. Youth-pop explosion yeah. And runaway winner of the coveted Sarah Swirly Green Sleeve Award.

**SARAH 72** was **THE SUGARGLIDERS'** awesome "Ahprahran" - it's apparently an ancient Aboriginal word for "3-track EP", incidentally, long fallen out of usage since the ancient aboriginals didn't actually know what a 3 track EP was. Kangaroos, yes - say "kangaroo" to one and he'd come over all misty-eyed and burble on for weeks; say "3-track EP" and he'd creep off and sit under a eucalyptus for 5 days looking moody and unapproachable. Handy hint: for those who still can't fathom whether the alphabetical racks in Our Price go across or down, or whether it runs horizontally from one rack to the next or goes all the way down one rack first, we've made this record especially easy to spot by putting a blue lawnmower on the front (though don't get it muddled with the new "Blue Lawnmower Mix" of the second [re-issued] Frank & Walters single [with postcard], to which it bears a striking resemblance, as do I).

And **SARAH 73** was a new EP from **ACTION PAINTING!** - "Classical Music", two minutes torn from a teenage heart, spinning the hard flip-side to our usual parochial whimsy. You grow up fast in a dockyard-town: busking for trade round the tattoo-joints, ten quid for a Saturday Night Special - these boys have seen it all - the fighters and the drunks, the losers and the lost, they've tasted the rum on their breaths, stroked the parrots on their shoulders -

All these singles also appeared on CD, as does everything for now, since CD sales are certainly keeping pace with vinyl and, on export, far outstripping. In the UK we still get a distorted view, and it's only when letters arrive from (say) people in the middle of America claiming they're unable to buy a new **STYLUS** that you realise what a pointless and **UNFAIR** gesture it is to not do CDs - uncomfortable though we still are with many aspects... But then, we are uncomfortable people, as anyone who's sat on us recently will testify.

Speaking of America - a quick apology about the "sleeveless records" that made their way to parts of The States - no, not a new summer-range for when the air-conditioning's broken, or a provocative Green Statement along the lines of Bold Re-fill - more a slip-up by Revolver's Export Department, who shipped 80 **SARAH 71s** to Cargo Distribution in Chicago before we'd sleeved them up. We've now sent our spare sleeves off to Cargo, but if you are still lacking one, um - well, eventually we'll re-press, I guess, and have a few more, so ask us in six months or so... We'd require proof-of-purchase, of course - a note from the retailer saying "our staff are so stoopid they didn't even realise this record was supposed to have a sleeve", signed by the staff, should suffice.



So - that's the past, what about THE FUTURE? Well, I think it's reasonable to surmise that over the next few months the overall energy distribution throughout the universe as a whole will become slightly more uniform as we slip inexorably towards the ultimate Heat Death scenario; but maybe I'm getting a little ahead of myself. More immediately, April 13th sees the release of **SECRET SHINE's** debut LP "Untouched" (SARAH 615), with a large purple cat on the front and 8 extremely loud new songs inside - or possibly it's the other way round, I'll check later. The Eldoradoesque saga of their line-up is now building to a climax, incidentally, with the entire rhythm section having recently died in a coach-crash and been replaced by a drum-machine with somebody else moving onto bass, possibly Jamie, possibly Scott. I have a sneaking suspicion that none of you actually care about this...

Another two weeks (April 26th) brings us to SARAH 74, **BLUEBOY's** new EP "Meet Johnny Rave" - thrash-pop A-side and a boy-girl duet on the flip that'll bring tears to your eyes - especially the bit between "Elle" and "Air France" where the acoustic guitars turn electric... it's the entire of Dylan's career compressed into one 2 second moment. Oh pop-music I love you. And they're recording a new EP in May which'll be "Fashion Accessory", "A Gentle Sigh" and "Last Song", followed by a second album later in the year. Oh, and they had a nice time in Japan. CD version adds "Popkiss" from the last 7", by the way.

Moving along inside, SARAH 75 is the cause of considerable arm-flapping here at Sarah, being the first release by fab new signings **EAST RIVER PIPE**, coming at you from New York City. They've released three 7"s on their own Hell Gate label, and we're re-issuing the first two of those with a track added to each (from recordings made around the same time) to make them EPs. First up is "Helmet On" (originally out in '91) on May 4th, followed on June 7th by "She's A Real Good Time". And then we're concentrating on newer stuff, because the songs he's writing now are all too fabulous for words - somewhere between The Field Mice and Raymond Carver strikes me as a useful comparison - and this will result in an 8 track 10" LP some time around early autumn - 6 brand new songs and 2 tracks from their third U.S. 7". Well, we're excited even if you're not.

Talking of irrational buzzes of excitement, the pop-world is currently flat on its back with astonishment at the news that Wetherby legends **BOYRACER** have finally signed on the dotted - no great surprise, really, given they've recently played with every other band on SARAH except their lamentably defunct heroes **THE GOLDEN DAWN** (who have a posthumous release coming up on Heaven - can this be true?), but worth a quick celebratory snog all the same; we've toyed with them frequently, but always been thwarted by their inability to stay still long enough between releasing singles flexis compilation-tracks and heaven-knows-what-else on other labels for us to ask them sensible career-based questions. But at last, FOUR pop classics ("I've Got It And It's Not Worth Having"/"Jesus Suzanne Christ"/"Black Fantastic Splitting"/"Beautiful Lines") on an EP entitled "B is for Boyracer" (an old Golden Dawn title, incidentally, till somebody pointed out that B was actually for Bolden Dawn). That's out May 10th. Meanwhile their previous recording, "Naked", is still available on Turntable Friend Records [distributed by SRD, or write to: Eigenstrasse 82, 4100 Duisburg, Germany], who are also releasing a Boyracer/Hula Hoop split mini-LP... and there's a double flexi package available from the band c/o 8 Spofforth Hill, Wetherby, West Yorks for £1 + SAE... Incidentally, the more observant of you will spot that Simon is wearing exactly the same T-shirt on the "Naked" sleeve as on our 7" - it's become his gimmick - like that fellow from AC/DC in the school uniform. Watch out for his silly walk too, and yell if he doesn't do it - "Do the silly walk, Simon!" - like every true showman, he loves to work an audience and, like every true showman, he loves to make an audience work. Oh, and to the person who refused to buy a flexi at The Duchess on the grounds that the name is sexist ("Boyracer", not "The Duchess of York" - that's just tasteless) - I think you're missing the point. Q. Spot the positive female reference: Blueboy, Boyracer, Sharkboy, Cola Boy, Huggy Bear, Velocity Girl. A. There isn't one. Discuss, using both sides of the argument.



Riot Grrrl seems to be producing rather more bathwater than babies at the moment - "Her Jazz" might be the best single for 15 years, but I don't see why that means we have to pretend to like hammy old punk-rock like Bikini Kill - after all, starving babies are undoubtedly a bad thing but I bet you never bought "Feed The World"... (The flaw in this argument is, of course, that you need more bathwater than babies - unless you use a flannel, I suppose.) And Heaven knows WHAT Picasso had in mind when he painted Blueboy - he always was a sexy old devil with no sense of perspective. Still - nice of Liz Naylor (Catcall) to tell us in her Huggy Bear sleeve-notes that there's nothing to stop girls setting up record-labels, as all you need is a nice man to lend you money. It's a guy thing. Incidentally, why do we all have to talk American?

Speaking of AC/DC, SARAH 77 (out May 24th) is yet another bloody EP by **THE SUGARGLIDERS** - with 2 songs ("Unkind" & "Beloved") recorded on their recent UK trip at Satya Studios in Derby, and one ("Trumpet Play") recorded back home in Melbourne - listen carefully to the CD and you'll actually be able to spot the difference - just there, faintly in the background - the clatter of surfboards and the rubbery thump of beachballs bouncing along the shore; odd, really, as all I remember about Derby is the Hampton Court style one-way system and the impossibility of ever reaching The Dial once you get yourself stranded the wrong side of the ring-road - we normally give up and head home. But there you go. "Unkind" also has the distinction of being our shortest song ever - 47 seconds including false start, and anyone who thinks this makes it a rip-off hasn't grasped even the basics of pop - one day ALL songs will be this short...

And have false starts. Because we all like to be reminded that bands are human. Speaking of which: **THE ORCHIDS**. Well - forget what we told you last time; they've recorded half a dozen songs, but want to do some more to make a full-length LP so - they'll do that later this month, meaning a release date of, um, about 3 months after they finish. But they have just done a session for Radio Scotland/Radio 5's "Earshot" which included, as well as a cover of The Box Tops' "The Letter", two new songs, "Obsession #1" and "It's Ours", both of which will appear on the LP. And for those still interested in the current activities of wayward bassist James - I'm afraid we don't know any more than we did last time, Mrs.Moody, but I think the photo with the camel was a joke.

Back to Australia and **EVEN AS WE SPEAK**, reeling still from the shock of mass critical acclaim (and yes, we too were distinctly UN-keen on the swimsuit photos in Melody Maker - alas, all beyond our control...), have recorded some new stuff including versions of "Blue Eyes", "Air" (both familiar from their recent Peel Session) and "Getting Faster" (to be heard on a Goodier Session due for broadcast in May which also includes [though possibly I shouldn't spoil your fun - so close your eyes till you get to the end of the sentence if you don't want to know] a toasting [reggae not crumpets] version of "Falling Down The Stairs"... not for nothing are they often pigeonholed as the Wacky Australian Band on Sarah). So - a new EP of some sort in early summer, maybe? By which time Julian and Paul will have returned from a brief sortie down under, be back in the band's new home in Hove - the Bondi of East Sussex - and raring to take to the boards again (stages not surf). Maybe a tour in July...

There's also a "Dance Re-mix" of "Straight As An Arrow" due out on Bush Records of Manchester - it was supposed to be out in January but one of the mixes still isn't done so - I guess it won't be out for a little while yet.

Anyway, from International Rock and Dance Culture to the more traditional SARAH world of parochial whimsy, and **HEAVENLY** return to the studio on 8th May to record a new EP - the fabulous "P.U.N.K. Girl" plus "Hearts & Crosses" and, um, other things - and it's undoubtedly another one to look out for over the summer. Plus they have some other new songs too, so hopefully it won't be too long after that before something else happens. Hey, you want hard news, we've got it. (The whole point about hard news is that it's difficult to get, surely?) Incidentally, for readers in the US, K should be capitalising on the success of "Le Jardin de..." by re-issuing "... Vs. Satan" on CD - we've not



had CDs ourselves since Danceteria went bust, though there's possibly an entire warehouseful in Lille. Which reminds me: if you're reading this en France, you're probably wondering where we've been for the past year since, in the wake of Danceteria's slow demise and subsequent legal stuff, nobody's been importing our releases - but this time of darkness is now thankfully passed, and everything will be available henceforth via MEDIA 7, who will probably go into liquidation sometime round November owing us lots of money if past experience is anything to go by but - les doigts sont croisés pour maintenant... oh, and **BLUEBOY** might be doing whatever the French version of "MTV Unplugged" is - "Blueboy sans plugs". So watch out for that. And - "shhhh..."

Off now to the Celtic Twilight, land of mists, goblins and cheap alcohol, and the news from Glasgow is that **THE WAKE** had to stop recording because the studio was being rebuilt, which is why nothing's been heard from them for a while. (And there was us thinking they'd used our money to help Tony Wilson out for old times' sake.) But they're now supposedly finishing off next week, while in Dublin **THE HARVEST MINISTERS** LP is already finished (for another mid-summer release) so - excitement rains upon us...

... luckily, I have my excitement-proof umbrella with me - pink and blue stripes with a black underside, you'll doubtless spot me sitting glumly under it should you sally forth to any of our upcoming SARAH entertainments, first of which appears to be **BLUEBOY** headlining at Riot Grrrl Central i.e. The Monarch in Chalk Farm on April 22nd. Support is EVERCLEAR and Bristol's very own embryonic pop phenomenon (can you tell we know them?) ORLANDO, emerging into 3D and full technicolour from the pages of Stud Base Alpha fanzine (20p + SAE from Dickon, 132 Cheltenham Road, Bristol BS6 5RW) - it's their debut, so I haven't a clue what they sound like, but we'll hazard a guess at snow melting on rusty drainpipes. Two days after that (April 24th) **HEAVENLY** play The Narrow Boat in Nottingham to wild tumultuous applause (I'm guessing here) - that's with **THE CAROUSEL** - and on 12th May they're playing The Boat Race in Cambridge (all very watery, this...) with **SATURN V.** And they (**HEAVENLY**) also have an old-fashioned home-town gig at The Jericho Tavern in Oxford on 30th April. Finally, on July 2nd, **HEAVENLY, EVEN AS WE SPEAK** and **BOYRACER** play The Powerhaus in Islington, so why not come along? If you're wondering why nobody's playing where you live, it's because you haven't organised it. And that's about it, sadly - though we are in the midst of trying to organise a French tour for **HEAVENLY** and **BLUEBOY** and maybe **BOYRACER** around the last week of June-ish (25/26/27th???) - but nothing's been finalised yet. Keep your ears pricked and vos doigts croisés, and give us a ring nearer the date; unless you're in one of the bands, in which case we'll ring you. Except **BOYRACER**, who haven't got a phone.

T-shirts - **EVEN AS WE SPEAK**'s never happened, and the **HEAVENLY** "large butterfly" ones have all flewed away - oh CRINGE... parochial whimsy attack.

Record stock-check: slight problem with SARAH 49 as the only remaining copies of that are trapped in Australia - but there are 2-300 of them, so we shan't repress it till we've got those back. If you have sent off for it, we haven't forgotten, and you should have had everything else you ordered at the same time as well as a brief explanatory note.

To conclude: if you want an up-to-date mail-order list, please write; if you want the next newsletter sent to you please send an SAE with "Newsletter 4" written in the corner - or £1 secures a place on the mailing-list for the next 4 issues (£1.50 Europe, £2.00 the rest of the world) - as long as you give us a permanent-ish address. Sorry, no cat this time as she's gone off inter-railing.

**Sarah records**  
**PO BOX 691**  
**BRISTOL BS99 1FG**

