

sarah newsletter

July 1993 m4

And a happy summer to you too, rat-face.

Of course, one of the best things about our total indie-pop leper status and general disdain for hob-nobbing with the right people is that we never get invited to these appalling festivals. Oh - maybe living in The West Country gives me a jaundiced outlook, especially now, with The Hippy Season at its height; but when Wells and Shepton Mallet are so much nicer than Glastonbury, I can't imagine why anybody would prefer the latter. But there you go. Yes you do, I'VE SEEN YOU. Anyway, the SARAH Alternative Summer of Pop, a string of dark and gloomy indoor entertainments, is on page four. For now - some news.

BLUEBOY launch our summer schedule on July 19th with their "Some Gorgeous Accident" EP (SARAH 80 7"/CD), recorded the same place as "Meet Johnny Rave" and Heavenly's early stuff, i.e. a barn in Warwickshire surrounded by sheep who (Heavenly inform us) are more than capable of holding their own in a game of football, though Keith and Paul's insistence on challenging them to doubles at badminton proved rather less successful. They've recorded "Try Happiness", "A Gentle Sigh" and "Stephanie", and the sleeve has a wall on it. Hey, so what's wrong with walls all of a sudden? And they've pretty much finished writing a second LP, to be recorded over the summer, and are doing a fanzine called "Applause" for an autumn-ish release; write to their PO Box for details. Er - all this refers to Blueboy, not the sheep - the sheep are doing a fanzine called "Woolly Mammoth" - it's mostly pictures, and a bit rude, apparently.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK have their new single "Blue Eyes Deceiving Me" (SARAH 79 7"/CD) out on July 26th; it features "Blue Eyes", "Air" (both as heard on their last Peel session) and "Getting Faster" (from the Goodier one). And they're recording a third Peel session on July 18th (to be filmed by an Aussie TV crew, seemingly), before hopping off back to Australia at the end of August, the pace of life in Hove having proved too much for them. Those of you of a more traditional racist bent can do a kangaroo joke here. We certainly shan't, as we did them all last time. There should also at long last be some T-shirts - yes, I know we said that before, but we were being ironic.

HEAVENLY are complicated. There's a new 7" (SARAH 81) out on July 26th, the very upfront "P.U.N.K. Girl" (c/w "Hearts & Crosses"), followed confusingly three weeks later (August 16th) by the less upfront more sort of sideways-on 7"EP "Atta Girl" (c/w "Dig Your Own Grave" and "So?" - Heavenly in soppy acoustic SARAH-by-numbers mode) - SARAH 82 - and by a combined 5-track CD of both 7"s (SARAH 82CD). The CD is also out in The States on K. And all this is followed 2 weeks later by August 30th. Meanwhile, as old-time Riot Grrrrandmas and Grrrrandpas, they're touring the UK with Bratmobile - but also without. And then they're off to the U.S. (United States) in September, but with an autumn UK tour too, probably with Lois again, who'll hopefully have written some slightly more interesting songs by then, and maybe Bristol's Orlando, who have already, several times, so keep your eyes ears potatoes etc. peeled. Oh and, following Amelia's triumphant appearance in Inspector Morse (as a passing cyclist, not Morse himself), they might, thanks to bassist Rob's day-job as script-person, be starring in The Bill. Doing what I know not, presumably some trauma-strewn plot of Rob's own devising involving a stolen bass amp, or maybe cocaine hidden in hollow drumsticks (so that's why Mathew keeps putting them up his nose...) - this is one of those disconcerting points at which make-believe and reality start to merge - we seem to spend an awful lot of our time at the fact/fiction interface these days (like, you wouldn't believe how many letters we get addressed to BRIGHTER or BOYRACER just as if they were actual people!), especially the cat who, by the simple expedient of donning a jaunty cap and posing cutely on the steps by Wapping Bridge, is even now fooling tourists into parting with money for boat-trips round the harbour which never happen.

August 23rd brings us **THE HARVEST MINISTERS'** "If It Kills Me And It:Will" (c/w "Can't Go It Alone"). And, unlikely as it may sound, given that you could almost hear the rain running down the studio windows on their first two 7"s, the words perfect breezy summer pop sensation cavort gauchely to mind. Weird. That's SARAH 84 (yes, I know our catalogue numbers are slightly haywire, but occasionally we get so intoxicated by pop that we trip over ourselves). The CD version also features the title tracks of those first two 7"s, i.e. the awesome "You Do My World The World Of Good" and equally so "Six O'Clock Is Rosary". And September 20th sees the release of the LP, "Little Dark Mansion", 13 tracks in all, SARAH 616, LP and CD and possibly cassette (Ireland and Canada are the only countries still buying cassettes - significant or what?).

THE SUGARGLIDERS inevitably have another 3-track 7" recorded, their third of the year, and their best ever (SARAH 83, also on CD) - that's out September 7th and features "Will We Ever Learn?", "Dolly" and "Reinventing Penicillin". And the sleeve has got mushrooms on it, so there. Better than bloody walls.

And token Americans **EAST RIVER PIPE** follow up their Melody Maker Single of the Week with an 8 song 10"/CD "Goodbye California", out August 31st wrapped in a rather gorgeous photo of a disused railroad station in New Jersey, fingers-crossed, and including both songs from their third US 7" ("Make A Deal With The City"/"Psychic Whore") plus 6 all-new all-wonderful others. For those still standing at the pool-edge, incidentally, the most usual comparisons are Galaxie 500 and Brighter, though without the dreariness of the former or the obsession with female body-parts of the latter. Ex-BRIGHTER stalwarts Keris and Alison have promised some sort of demo soon, by the way, for those still pining.

BOYRACER meanwhile have spent today having their photos taken on the escalators in the Leeds Hilton, where they were staying after the Royal Park gig - Simon in his usual stripey T-shirt of course. And they're gigging all over the place (or "gigging" as the Spell-Check always insists, almost as if it knew) and recording a new 7" (5 tracks?) at the start of July called "From Purity To Purgatory" which will feature their entry for our Shortest Ever Song contest, clocking in at 28 seconds - they haven't written it yet, just measured the tape. Oh, and to nip all these unpleasant (for us) rumours in the bud, they didn't sleep their way onto the label, either collectively or individually - in fact, they didn't even make it through the heats. And anyway bands only ever sleep their way OFF the label. There's a double 7" of various bits coming out on Turntable Friend too, and a possible German tour. They were supposed to be doing a Mark Radcliffe session, but that seems to have un-happened...

But **SECRET SHINE** might be doing a Peel one, since The Great Man himself alluded to it on air, and we've never yet had a bull without seizing it by the horns, or vice-versa. A new single soon too, "Collosal" plus two others, just as soon as we figure out how to fit three rather long loud songs onto a 7" other than 1 track each side, sadly not possible in this dimension.

Though possibly it is in the one which **THE WAKE** and **THE ORCHIDS** inhabit; located in the outer Glasgow postal districts, the G40's and 50's, this appears to be some form of inverted Time vortex - as one approaches the centre, Time begins to spiral slower and slower and eventually, as one dips below what we term the Non-Event Horizon, actually run backwards. Nevertheless, both bands assure us they have pretty much finished recording (we've actually heard five of **THE WAKE's** ten songs...), and **THE ORCHIDS** (whose excuse seems to be that producer Ian Carmichael is so often busy being in ultra-hip One Dove) now looks like it'll be a single and LP. Datewise, pencil in October for most of the things in these 3 paragraphs, but use a 3H for **BOYRACER** and a 2B for the rest.

What else? Who else? **THE HIT PARADE** have recorded a new LP for Polystar in Japan which is apparently wonderful (well Harvey says it is anyway, and the one track we heard certainly was...) - and I did think of someone else last night, who was it? Damn... who-is-it-my-thoughts-turn-to-as-I-turn-out-the-light, um... **ACTION PAINTING!**, that was it... probably recording a new single called "Mustard Gas" very very soon, so yet another one for October, I guess. Oh, and the possible French tour for **HEAVENLY**, **BLUEBOY** and **BOYRACER** mentioned last time is now moved to September or October. Or Italy.

THE SARAH GRAND WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE

Basically, since the merger with APT, Revolver's warehouse has filled up with northern rubbish that used to be kept up in York, and they're now having to clear out a lot of the older stuff that doesn't really sell much any more to make space and - they'd rather like us to have some of ours back, which is a bit impractical, as, unlike them, we don't live in a warehouse. So - we're selling off all our earlier 7"s (up to SARAH 60, specifically) at special bargain rates for biggish orders - £1.50 each for 5 or more, £1.00 for 10 or more (£1.50/£1.80 Europe, £2.50/£2.00 World). People ordering 7, 8 or 9 will be publicly humiliated by having songs written about them by a band of our choice.

SARAH STARTER PACK

A great way to introduce your friends to the label,
it features all those things we've got especially lots of:

- 1x SWEETEST ACHE T-shirt/1x THE FIELD MICE September's Not So Far Away 7"
- 2x HEAVENLY So Little Deserve 7"/1x TRAMWAY Sweet Chariot 7"
- 1x July 1992 One Page Fanzine/1x Heavenly or Sweetest Ache poster
- 1x SAROPOLY BOARD/1x funny little Japanese poster

- all packed in a Heavenly carrier bag and all for a
very wonderful bargain £10 (UK), £12 (Europe), £15 (World).

SARAH FUN PACK

As above, but missing out the TRAMWAY single.

SARAH GRAND BATHROOM CUPBOARD CLEAROUT SALE

Both Revolver and ourselves have been having something of a clearout in our respective offices and warehouses and cupboards-under-the-sink and stuff, and we've between us come across some things we thought we'd run out of - just odd copies of this and that though so, if you are interested, phone to reserve them, or, if you can't face hearing our weird robotic voices and having all your dreams shattered, send a separate cheque for the dubious items so we can return that uncashed if need be and not run-up bank-charges sending you change. Or just list alternatives... Anyway, we suddenly have a few copies of each of:

- SARAH 17: THE GOLDEN DAWN "George Hamilton's Dead"
- SARAH 18: THE FIELD MICE "Sensitive"/SARAH 21: THE WAKE "Crush The Flowers"
- SARAH 22: ANOTHER SUNNY DAY "You Should All Be Murdered"
- SARAH 24: THE FIELD MICE "Autumn Store Part 1"/SARAH 31: ETERNAL "Breathe"

all of which are officially deleted. Hey, why not buy lots now then sell them to Collectors' Shops at £10 a go DESPICABLE CAPITALIST SCUM. We also found in our bathroom cupboard some long-lost T-shirts (Orchids, St.Christopher, Field Mice) some perfect, some misprinted, some just a bit grubby - the cat's now sporting the only CHOCOLATE-LOVE-SEX one (sorry, it's just she's always wanted one), but the rest we're offering basically at anything from proper price downwards, depending on how crap they are or how crap you are and what sort of day we've had - ring us and barter.

COMPETITION

If you resent us, but still find our records irresistible,
the following addresses of mail-order people might be useful:

- RHYTHM: 12 GWYDIR STREET, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 2LL, ENGLAND
- MIND THE GAP: PAPPELWEG 27, 22949 AMMERSBEK, GERMANY
- ELEFANT: c/QUEVEDO No 13 - 4 IZDA, 24300 BEMBIBRE, LEON, SPAIN
- ANDRAK: BP 10, 33026 BORDEAUX CEDEX, FRANCE

[Rhythm stock a wide range of everything, the other three are more narrowly SARAH-type stuff,
but all do catalogues and will save you currency charges if you're writing from abroad.]

SARAH SUMMER TOUR FRENZY

JULY

Thu 1st	EVEN AS WE SPEAK/BOYRACER Derby <i>Wherehouse</i>
Fri 2nd	HEAVENLY/EVEN AS WE SPEAK/BOYRACER London <i>Powerhaus</i>
Sat 3rd	HEAVENLY/TIMBERTOES Scunthorpe <i>The Lincoln Imp</i>
Mon 5th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Manchester <i>The Banshee</i>
Mon 5th	BOYRACER/THE BEATNIK FILMSTARS Bath <i>Moles Club*</i>
Tue 6th	BOYRACER/ACTION PAINTING! Bristol <i>Louisiana</i>
Wed 7th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Leicester <i>Princess Charlotte</i>
Thu 8th	BLUEBOY/BOYRACER London Camden <i>Falcon</i>
Fri 9th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK/BOYRACER Birmingham <i>Jug Of Ale</i>
Sat 10th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Hull <i>Adelphi</i>
Mon 12th	BOYRACER/VICARAGE GARDEN Nottingham <i>Narrow Boat</i>
Tue 13th	BOYRACER Manchester <i>Swinging Sporrán</i>
Wed 14th	BOYRACER Oxford <i>Jericho Tavern</i>
Wed 14th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE/WET NURSES Brighton <i>Madeira Hotel</i>
Thu 15th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE Southampton <i>Joiner's Arms</i>
Thu 15th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK/BOYRACER Leeds <i>Duchess Of York</i>
Fri 16th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE Leeds <i>Duchess Of York</i>
Sat 17th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE Hull <i>Adelphi</i>
Sun 18th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE Manchester <i>Swinging Sporrán</i>
Wed 21st	BLUEBOY/ORLANDO/ASHBY BUCHANAN London <i>St. John's Tavern</i>
Thu 22nd	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Colchester <i>Arts Centre</i>
Fri 23rd	EVEN AS WE SPEAK London Camden <i>Falcon</i>
Sat 24th	HEAVENLY/BRATMOBILE/LINUS/PUSSYCAT TRASH/SKINNY TEEN London Holborn <i>Conway Hall (afternoon gig)</i>
Mon 26th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Norwich <i>Arts Centre</i>
Sat 31st	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Northampton <i>Racehorse</i>
Sat 31st	HEAVENLY Somewhere in Rugby (TBC)

AUGUST

Sun 1st	HEAVENLY/EVEN AS WE SPEAK/ORLANDO Bristol <i>Fleece & Firkin</i>
Wed 4th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Southampton <i>Joiners Arms (TBC)</i>
Thu 5th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Brighton <i>Concorde</i>
Fri 6th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Tunbridge Wells <i>The Forum</i>
Sat 7th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Littlehampton <i>Windmill Theatre</i>
Wed 11th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Sheffield <i>Antenna (TBC)</i>
Thu 12th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Edinburgh <i>Subway (TBC)</i>
Sat 14th	TVPs/EVEN AS WE SPEAK Brighton (Hove) <i>Lords LUNCHTIME</i>
Sat 14th	HEAVENLY London Covent Garden <i>Rough Trade LUNCHTIME</i>
Fri 14th	HEAVENLY London Kentish Town <i>Bull & Gate</i>
Sat 14th	EVEN AS WE SPEAK Oxford <i>Jericho Tavern</i>
Sat 21st	HEAVENLY Leicester <i>Princess Charlotte</i>

* Moles Club in Bath is technically members only - but if you ring them on (0225) 333423, they'll usually put you on a pay-on-the-door guest-list.

For those marked TBC (= to be confirmed...), feel free to give us a ring and check. Or a ring and cheque. Or just a cheque. Keep your bloody ring.

OTHER GIG NEWS... THE HARVEST MINISTERS should be gigging both in Ireland and in the UK around the time their LP comes out... and ACTION PAINTING! are touring with BOYRACER starting September 24th, for a week or so, don't know any details as of yet, but it sounds like a very sensible time to leave the country to me... SHAMPOO are crap, apparently, so don't bother going to see them...

And that's about it. Send an SAE for the next newsletter, or £1 to get the next four... why should you do that? I'll tell you. Because it's the only way of finding out what OH MY GOD WHAT'S THAT, COMING THROUGH THE DOOR, IT'S HORRIBLE, IT'S - IT'S - OH GOD I DON'T BELIEVE IT, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO... PUSS!!! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER...

Miaow! Miaow Miaow, miaow - MIAOW!!! Miaow miaow-miaow - miaow??? Miaow miaow SUGAR! Miaow-miaow...

Sarah records Po Box 691 Bristol BS99 1FG 0272 636929