

Big Noise: Not Your Average Band

by Siggy Flynn

This Spring Formal will mark Big Noise's fourth year of being together. They debuted at the 1981 Formal wearing bright orange paint, calling themselves Orange Crush. Then it was Live Short and Suffer (or, at one gig, Wear Shorts and Suffer). This was the band that, according to lead singer Brian Blaisdell, "always played and everyone hated."

But today, Big Noise is a big deal. They have never been your average band, nor have they come from your average college. The band members are: Brian Blaisdell, lead singer and trombone; Nelson Bragg on drums; Andrea Bianchi, singer and guitar player; John Jacobs on bass guitar; Peter Buettner on alto sax; and Ralph Carney on tenor sax.

Nine p.m., May 7, 1984. We heard the bells ring nine times; it was time for the interview. We all gathered around a pitcher of beer and began. I had my questions ready, but was also open for surprises. I could feel some were coming. I felt like I was at summer camp and at any

moment the guys might stick a frog down my blouse or pick me up and throw me in a lake. It was as if there were an inside joke pervading the air which made everyone not take anything seriously.

Q: Do you have any grand message to the world or are you simply a "get-up-and-dance" band?

Brian: "Peace and love should rule all eternity."

Nelson: "We're telling people to slack off."

Q: Your music could be described as fun, chaotic, happy, polka-dotted, funny, strange, weird, different, and (to use a safe word) interesting. Would you please elaborate on this?

All: "Sick, red, serious, humble, all-knowing, all-wise, from above, from below, from between, very athletic, and none of the above."

Q: What inspires you to write these songs? Why are you in Rock & Roll?

All, (very flippantly): "Money, cars, women, glitter, amplifiers, private jets, and everything."

Q: "College Student," your first single, describes college life, but what other

purposes does it serve?

Brian, (who wrote the song): "I think it's good for people to go to the bar and dance and get to know each other a little better, and it might actually help them slip into something a little more comfortable later on in the evening."

Q: What do you think about when you're on the stage?

Nelson: "I think about how the bartender and waitresses are working as hard as I am, making people comfortable by serving drinks."

Q: At your last gig at The Chance (April 9), The Clash were there after their gig at Vassar. What was it like knowing they were watching the show?

All: "We didn't know."

Brian: "Oh, I did--they were at the bar with Clash T-shirts, trying to pick up girls."

Q: You've moved from Orange Crush to Live Short and Suffer and now Big Noise. You're opening for acts like Gang of Four. Are you catching a glimpse of the big time?

All: "Not yet, not yet at all."

Nelson: "It's been real easy

so far." (The rest cough.) "I'm in the security of the school, but when we graduate, things will change very much. Brian, John, and I don't have to worry about rent, food, heating, and gas like Peter and Andrea."

Q: Where do you see the band going? Where would you like to be in five years?

Brian: "Australia, China. Actually, we should be the first band to break the U.S.--U.S.S.R. bloc and become the international peace keepers of the entire world."

Q: Your sound has evolved. Will it evolve further?

Andrea: "First of all, we don't want to stay in one spot. Bard was great for Big Noise because they always gave us incredible amounts of support even when we were really, really bad." (Laughter.) "I heard tapes of us from two years ago and we stunk and people were screaming. That's why we kept going. We want to be a world-class band. We have to evolve, grow, and keep changing. Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah."

* * * *

The Winners of the Three-Legged Beer Race: A Photo Essay



With bold determination, Jeff Shaper and Kathy Bancroft approach the finish line.



Arrgh. Immediately after finishing. (Kathy negotiates book and film rights.)



The victors reap the fruits of their labor--two sleazy posters.

Photos: TAA

Fellowships (cont.)

Daphne Ross will be joining an archaeological project connected with Arizona State University. Specifically, she will be working at an ongoing dig at the Shoofly Village Ruins in central Arizona. Her internship will include instruction in excavation, survey, mapping, and the analysis and interpretation of data.

Karen Ortiz will spend this summer in private clarinet training with Laura Flax, a clarinetist with the Da Capo Chamber Players.

Nadja Shafir will intern this summer at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. Her major activity will be to coordinate the Museum's Educational Program of lectures, films, and concerts. She will be responsi-

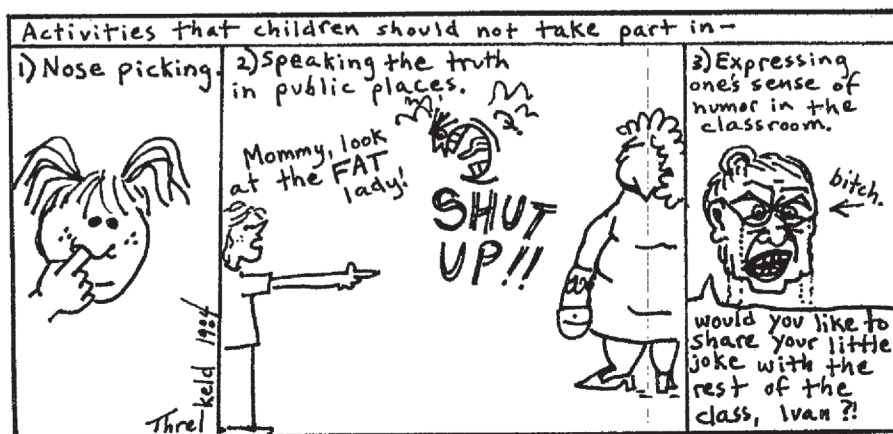
ble for writing all publicity for the series and will organize each event held during the summer. She will also assist in the development of the program for the summer of 1985.

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