

## Two West Coast bands jamming here tonight

Got the midweek blues? Wednesday should be a happening night in Lincoln with two bands appearing on the Lincoln bar scene.



The William Clarke Blues Band will be at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., and National People's Gang will appear at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.

The band is a group of musicians dedicated to preserving the sound and feel of traditional and contemporary electric blues while maintaining its own sound and original interpretation of new and classic blues material.

Featuring William Clark on vocals and harmonica, Alex Schultz on guitar, Willie Brinlee on bass and Ed Clark on the drums, the band has been featured in clubs and blues festivals on the West Coast.

The band's first album, "Tip of the Top," was released in early 1987 on Satch Records, and the European label, Double Trouble Records.

The album was nominated for a W.C. Handy award in the Contemporary Blues Album of the Year category. The band was nominated for Blues Band of the Year, and William Clarke was nominated for best Blues Instrumentalist.

The second album, "Rockin' the Boat," was released on the Rivera Record label in December of 1987.

Several critics have noted that the William Clarke Blues Band has a fine way with the harmonica.

The music starts at 9 p.m., the cover charge is \$4.

Also appearing in Lincoln tonight is the National People's Gang.

The band is said to embrace the line between avant garde and approachable, and it works with visual ideas as well as music. The band has just released its debut album, "The Hard Swing," on Dr. Dream Records.

The NPG started out in California's club scene. The band's bizarre and unpredictable live shows combined with powerful songs earn the band a loyal following.

Vocalist Chad Jasmine has a range that goes from airy pop ditties to frightening punk howlings.

Chad Forrelo's guitar also swings from ultra-clean jangle that is the base of the alternative music sound to a hard, grinding guitar line.

Anthony Arvizu takes over the drums, and Chuck Morris adds to the rhythm section with his bass.

According to Jasmine, the band name may sound political, but it's the idea of a rock band as a common link between nations and people.

The show starts at 9 p.m. at Duffy's and tickets are \$2.



National People's Gang will appear at Duffy's.



William Clarke will perform at the Zoo.

## The Fixx takes leap backward with mediocre album

By Lisa Donovan  
Senior Reporter

The Fixx  
Calm Animals  
RCA

Perhaps The Fixx should go back to the factory by the Thames River in Southeast London where they practiced in the early 1980s. This was before notoriety and before the band's latest release, "Calm Animals."

### album REVIEW

Sadly enough, Cy Curnin and the gang have taken leaps backward with their fifth album. With a few decent tunes, which will only get air play on Q102 and Z-92, "Calm Animals" redefines mediocre.

The first track, "I'm Life," is apparently attempting chaotic sound. It fails miserably. Not only is the melody irritating, but the lyrics...

There is no doubt that the next track, "Driven Out," will reach the Top 40. The tune is fairly digestible. It is a simple song about how people have destroyed the world by pollution, media and selfishness. The message is one of awareness:

"Driving in my car/I used to be able to walk this far/now I turn on the light/I used to be able to sleep at night/I'm cooking with microwaves/to warm up my food that has not seen the soil plugged into my TV/used to lie they're telling me."

The song essentially talks about a person who is being "driven out" of the mainstream -- in spirit. But he or she is too comfortable and perhaps one of the persons destroying the planet. The melody and lyrics are more interesting, not to mention a welcome relief from the disco hits currently polluting the airwaves.

The next release "Subterranean"

is, needless to say, a real "yawner." In this one Curnin and company are trying to be too poignant:

"There's a mood but no legislation/no guarantee it's a tabloid reality/people making good connections/write, write, write...it up for us all."

"Precious Stone," the third release, is a nice little song about how

one can't put a price on love. This may be the one that saves the entire album, as far as its commercial value is concerned.

Although the lyrics falter at the close, the song has a strong and fresh beginning. "Precious Stone," speaks of the carefree feeling one has when there is mutual love, but the doubts

and questions that often plague relationships:

"I danced in the surf/at the edge of an ocean/could have been someone else/could have been anything at all/don't deny that you ask yourself/how do you weigh in this precious stone?"

The title track "Calm Animals" is

a boorish piece that compares the animal to man. It is the theme, perhaps of the album, that although people are free, they must be aware of and responsible for the consequences of that freedom.

It would have been a much smarter move for The Fixx and RCA to release the two best tracks on "Calm Animals" -- "The Flow" and "Cause to be Alarmed."

The former is in the spirit of The Fixx's 1983 LP, "Reach the Beach." Like its title, "The Flow," is a smooth and dreamy melody about getting carried away by life:

"Back in the flow/carried by the flow/just look how far you've been/look how far you've come/all the things you've achieved/don't try and find any reason get carried by it/jump in the flow."

The song seems to mock and accept mainstream, at the same time.

**'The song seems to mock and accept mainstream, at the same time.'**

"Cause to be Alarmed," is yet another plea by The Fixx for people to be aware of what the world is becoming:

"We are pumped up fantasies/until the world is disarmed/fly bird high bird/go see bird and tell bird/that a love bird got shot/heard the lead bird's a dead bird."

Ick! Only Peter Gabriel and Sting have the knack of cranking out metaphysical lyrics with dynamic accompaniment.

None of the musicians really were dynamic on this recording, but The Fixx returns with its usual cast: Cy Curnin, lead vocals, guitar; Jamie West-Oram, lead guitar, vocals;



Courtesy of BMG Music

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