



radio

ACTIVITY

A guide to **chsr fm**
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Rough Trade's recent concert at UNB was both a stunning success and a dismal failure; the band itself had never been better, giving us 90 minutes of tight, polished entertainment. And the sound was nothing short of superb. But the lack of organization and professionalism on the part of the SRC and Campus Police was annoying, inexcusable and downright embarrassing. Before any other attempts are made to bring in top-name entertainment, they should sit down and use a little common sense in their planning, and revamp nearly all their policies regarding live music events.

CHSR-FM had representatives at the concert and was granted an interview with co-founder and writer of Rough Trade, Kevan Staples. Following is a partial transcript of the conversation:

CHSR: On your latest album *Weapons*, you sound like you are finally doing what you want to do. Is that a correct assumption?

KS: No, I think it's just a progression really, from the last album and the one before, with the same sort of writing style.

CHSR: What I mean is all the stops have finally been pulled out...

KS: Yeah, there's more variety of playing, more variety of styles and songs. That's for sure.

CHSR: I got the feeling that your earlier albums were much more in the progressive vein while the recent ones are more funk-oriented. What do you think of your first albums?

KS: Well, it's something we've always done but I think with the first it was,

CAUGHT IN THE ACT: Rough Trade

like, songs we'd been playing for years and were just glad to get them recorded. Then the last two albums were with different players, with Howard and John. (their current line-up). And their style of playing is quite different from the first two albums. So I think it was just a natural progression with the people we're playing with.

CHSR: On the song Paisley Generation Carole Pope sounds quite bitter about that time (early 70s)?...

KS: Oh not at all, that's just sort of a humorous reflection on that period of time. The period that we in the band grew up in and can relate to, with the style of dress and the songs from that era.

CHSR: Would you say then that Carole is an observer more than a writer?

KS: Yes, she is much more an observer; that's always been her style.

Bruns: I find that Canadian bands that are as big as

yourself often champion Canadian identity. I notice that that's missing from your performance.

KS: Well there's a certain inherent Canadian quality of doing that. That's not even an issue with us I guess. And we've never really thought about it too much.

CHSR: You don't even suggest that you're Canadian.

KS: That's not an important factor. I think that we think

of ourselves as much more of an international in that sense.

CHSR: You mentioned in an interview about being bitter about the fact that you have to make it elsewhere before you can make it here.

KS: No, it's not a matter of being bitter, it's just a matter of saying that it's difficult to make it on an international level while working in Canada. It's hard to get out of this country.

ALTERNATIVE RECORD CHART

1. ROUGH TRADE---WEAPONS

Carole, we love you. Canada's most potent force on the music scene today, with a stunning album that's both listenable, danceable, and thought-provoking.

2. SPOONS---TALK BACK

The darlings of the Canadian music scene, the Spoons return with a dynamite LP. Produced by Nile Rogers, it's even better than 'Arias and Symphonies'.

3. BIG COUNTRY---THE CROSSING

The most successful debut album of the year. After 6 weeks at number 1, this one is slowly moving down the chart. 'I thought that pain and truth were things that really mattered.'

4. STYLE COUNCIL---INTRODUCING THE STYLE COUNCIL

Paul Weller bares his soul. This goes to prove that there is life after the Jam. The Style Council is a great new vehicle for Weller and we wish him all the best.

5. RATIONAL YOUTH---RATIONAL E.P.

From Montreal, Rational Youth plays electro-pop in the vein of Men Without Hats. This isn't the first record they've put out, but is the first one released on a major label. Above-average dance music.

6. XTC---MUMMER

Always quirky, XTC takes an even darker approach to pop music on this new album. One of the most interesting and original of all British pop bands.

7. JOE JACKSON---MIKE'S MURDER

The soundtrack to the ill-fated 'Mike's Murder', a movie we may never see. Jackson writes, arranges and performs all material, including the excellent instrumental tracks on Side 2.

8. PETER SCHILLING---ERROR IN THE SYSTEM

A young German musician with a concept he borrowed from David Bowie. And it works. An over-all good sample of European electro-pop.

9. PAYOLA\$---HAMMER ON A DRUM

A great follow-up to their smash hit 'No Stranger to Danger.' Payola\$ always have great lyrics and this is no exception. A guest appearance by Carole Pope is just icing on the cake.

10. GANG OF FOUR---HARD

Bassist Sara Lee adds a softer touch to the once-abrasive Gang of Four. Many older fans are turned off by this 'white funk', but the band's ability to change and adapt with the times is admirable.

11. X---MORE FUN IN THE NEW WORLD

X just gets better, year after year. The haunting harmonies of John Doe and Exene Cervenka will chill you to the bone. This band deserves a major success. Rock n roll with a difference.

12. THE ALARM---THE ALARM E.P.

A great guitar band that mixes music with politics. This debut EP is excellent. An acoustic Clash? Only time will tell.