

# Appealing music, but the timing lacks something

by Kathryn Bailey

Two years ago, the appearance of Blur would have caused a cataclysm in the British music industry. The band's debut album, *Leisure*, possesses a catchy, musically coherent sound with mammoth appeal. Unfortunately, we've heard it all before.

Blur has chosen either the perfect

## music

Blur  
*Leisure*  
EMI

or most disastrous time to emerge. After a deluge of post-Stone Roses bands like The Charlatans, Ride and Northside, Blur has taken the chance that it will either crest the wave of

mop-top stardom to another record deal or sink in a complacent sea of flavour-of-the-month groups.

Either way you look at it, Blur is alright, and *Leisure* is a worthwhile addition to any collection, if for the package alone. Wrapped in a jellybean coloured sleeve, a tacky bather grins from the front, while the anti-fashion band looks menacingly from the back.

Some songs on this album span the gap between Indie and Top 40. The first two singles, "There's No Other Way" and "She's So High" possess both the raspy, guitar distortion of successful Indie tracks and danceable pop lightness that gets any band onto the charts.

There's no way this band can fail.

Other songs, like "Birthday" and "Sing," on the other hand, contain ethereal seriousness, like Ride and



Blur & bovine companions in a pastoral pose. Blur are on the leading edge of the new "scowl & grimace" movement in British pop music.

# Sowing the Seeds

by Marc Warsh

Envision York held a rally and concert in the still-unnamed Student Centre Restaurant-Club last Wednesday, September 25. Two brilliant bands, Fijahtive and Seeds of Harmony, played amidst vendors and informative speeches.

Envision York, an student environmental coalition at York University, was trying to raise awareness of the un-ecological practices of York's campus land developers (see news, page 5).

If you are wondering why you did not hear about it, don't worry — neither did anyone else. Only 25 people showed up.

Envision York had originally planned to hold the festival outdoors at the Stong-Kaiser Hedgerow, which they have recently saved from destruction.

The day before the festival, organizers decided to hold things inside because of threatening weather. At the last minute, they received permission from the Restaurant Club management.

Furthermore, publicity for the event was very poor. Limited fliers and hand-outs were distributed around campus.

This was unfortunate: the festival offered wonderful sounds, strong anti-development speeches, and some great environmentally friendly products.

All proceeds of the event were given to environmental causes.

Psychedelic folk rock band Seeds of Harmony opened the show. They were great. Their musical influences range from the height of the 1960s folk era right to the present.

"Special of the Day" was quite an amusing tune. The chorus goes: "My heart began to thunder for the special of the day / waste to sit upon my cracker chunks of sphincter pate."

The harmonizing of the two female vocalists was excellent, and the bongos and flute were fairly tight.

The second act was Fijahtive, a Toronto band that for the past six years has been building up quite a following. They're influenced by the traditional reggae masters and have a fairly distinct sound.

Lead singer Winston danced and booted back and forth across the stage, bringing the crowd to its feet, and all the musicians were excellent. The three-man horn section gave the band power. Although he doesn't like to do interviews, Winston agreed to talk with me just before the show. He says he likes to see people enjoying themselves, no matter what the venue.

"Dance is the appreciation that we want. When people dance, they let go...they enjoy what they hear and enjoy themselves together." Unfortunately the band couldn't get much satisfaction because there were too few people in the audience to get up and dance.

Fijahtive will be playing around Toronto in the near future; check your

## concert

Seeds of Harmony and Fijahtive  
Student Centre Restaurant Club  
Wednesday, September 25

local listings for the dates. For excellent jamming, rocking and dancing don't miss this band.



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October 10: Toronto (4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.) Sheraton Centre Hotel, Dominion Room, 123 Queen Street West

October 11: London (2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.) Centennial Hall, 550 Wellington Street

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