

# Inner-view: The Blushing Brides

by Phillip Franck

The Sub exploded Saturday night with a bash not to be soon forgotten. Downstairs, the pop sound of Pace and the sweet R & B tunes of the Mason Chapman Band kept the party boogie-ing but the real show-stealer was undoubtedly **The Blushing Brides**. Despite all the recent controversy, no one who saw them came away disappointed, the band giving an almost 3-hour performance. The group is, by their own admission, only doing their interpretation of the energy made possible through rock 'n roll, as exemplified by the Rolling Stones. I have never seen the Stones live, but the Brides' show is probably the closest I'll get.

Quite simply, they were good. Lead singer Maurice Raymond oozed that famous Jagger magnetism, while guitarist Paul Martin did bear a striking resemblance to Ron Wood and Keith Richards. The lineup also featured James Green on guitar and a solid bottom line, courtesy of bassist Martin Van Dijk and drummer Richard Berthiaume.

The band formed when Paul, Martin, and Richard, out of Kingston, Ontario, got together with Maurice (or "Moe" as he's known to the rest of the band) and James in Montreal 2 1/2 years ago. Initially based in Kingston, they've been touring ever since, playing mainly Eastern Canada. It was a long climb: attendance was "terrible" at first, but is now improving steadily. They plan to have their first album out this spring, and will be touring the U.S. East Coast this March.

After the show, I found the band to be a group of high-spirited young musicians, having fun doing their stuff and bringing the message of simple, fun rock and roll to otherwise overlooked venues. In the following interview they talk about the band, their new album, and, of course, the Stones.

**Gazette:** Congratulations on your show, it was really a great set. I was impressed by your clean, polished image.

**Maurice:** It's all in the legs! (laughter) We enjoy playing here. Most of the people that came out seemed to have enjoyed themselves...it's very good here.

**Gazette:** This was the first time you played here (Dalhousie)?

**Maurice:** Yes.

**Paul:** We played Halifax quite a few times, but still, it seems to take a long time, just getting known. Now it's starting to make a difference, which is real nice, just getting over that first hurdle.

**Maurice:** We work hard at it, and we hope that people appreciate it. We've put out our own album, and the whole idea about the band is to eventually be playing all our own stuff with the same intensity and in the same tradition as the Rolling Stones. That's the reason why we use the publicity in the tradition of the Rolling Stones, to let people know what's going to be happening.

**Paul:** What kind of music to expect, and what kind of energy we're setting for ourselves.

**Gazette:** So you've been touring for two and a half years?

**Paul:** Yeah, ever since we started.

**Maurice:** We worked together for three days in a basement in Kingston, and then went on the road for seventeen nights, and we haven't stopped since then.

**Richard:** We've practised maybe twice in the past two years.

**Gazette:** You get most of your practise on the road?

**Maurice:** Yeah, performing in front of the people. That's why we're pretty loose, because we will attempt songs on the spur of the moment, even if we don't know them! (laughter)

That's what we do with the Stones thing, it's not a total clone, or whatever, it's only our own interpretation. We're bringing the essence of the Stones to places where people are otherwise admittedly exposed.

**Paul:** Yeah, they (the Stones) have never played the Maritimes, and they haven't played New England, where we're also very big, in a long time. We've sold a lot of Stones albums. They should love us for that! (laughter)

**Gazette:** When is the new album going to be out?

**Maurice:** The album has a tentative release date of April 15th, give or take a couple of weeks. It will be an international release, simultaneously in Canada and the United States, and then hopefully in Europe and Japan. That's what we're working for, to be an international act from the start. We all have the same vision and hope to bring everybody good R&B rock'n'roll.

There's a lot of variety on the album - ballads, good rockers...

**Paul:** Like a punching bag except we're not hitting anything.

**Maurice:** We put a lot of different types of music on the album, because that's the kind of band we want to be.

**Paul:** But it still has the same elements, a common denominator, which is the most central part of the band, other than the Stones thing.

**Maurice:** Essentially, that's what the Stones have, they do everything. It's that certain sound they have.

**Gazette:** What do you think about the Stones' attitude towards rock and roll, that it should be fun and not taken too seriously?

**Maurice:** I think it's a very realistic attitude. There's better things to think seriously of in this world; we're in a bigger mess than to worry about what the lyrics of some three-chord beat song mean. I don't think the messages are really that deep. Basically, rock and roll is music to dance to.

**Gazette:** Basically a release?

**Maurice:** Yeah, that's all it could be.

**Paul:** Well I think Pete Townsend thinks too much! (laughter)

**Gazette:** He takes his music very seriously.

**Maurice:** He does, but we do too. In making it, we want it to be a good product that people can listen to.

**Gazette:** What do you think of the Stones' current material?

**Maurice:** The current stuff is really good.

**Paul:** It's still fresh-sounding, that's the important thing. That's what we're striving for on our album, too. You know, having a good time but working out a bit.

**Gazette:** Obviously, the Stones must have been a big influence on you when you were growing up.

**Paul:** Yeah, to a certain extent, but earlier on, it was other music. They (the Stones) were never really an absolute number one band, only when they toured, then they fade away, but they've always existed in the background. They never really leave your mind.

**Gazette:** They played Montreal in '65.

**Maurice:** They played there in '72 also.

**Gazette:** Did you go to that concert?

**Maurice:** No, I was going to, but I was real young, and there was no way I could have ventured down there and gotten tickets two weeks in advance.

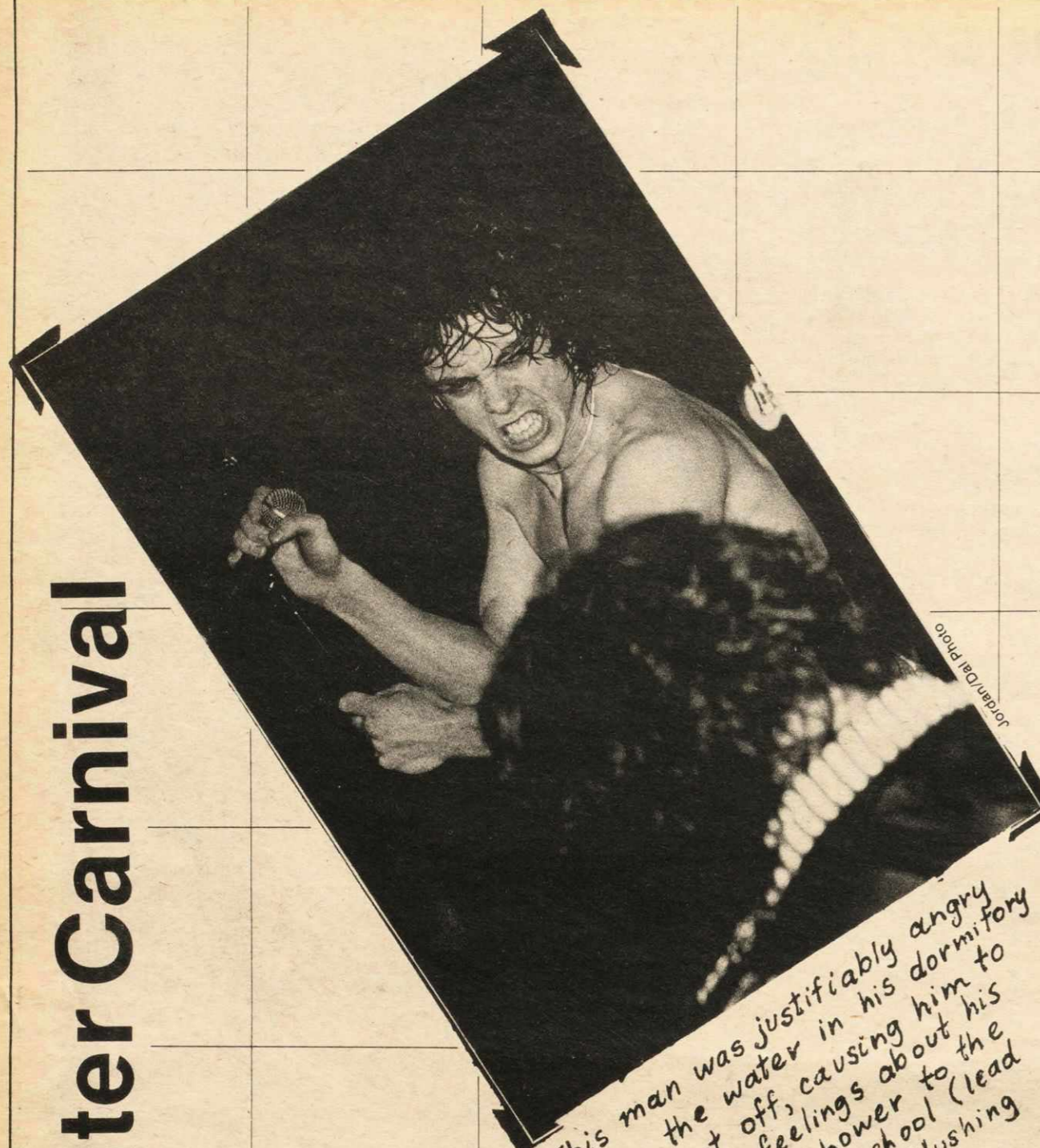
I saw him (Jagger) in '75 in Toronto, and in Buffalo in 1978 and 1980. They were real good to see in '75. That, I think, was the last of the great Stones concerts. They were just dynamite. Unbelievable.

**Gazette:** Any big incidents happen on tour?

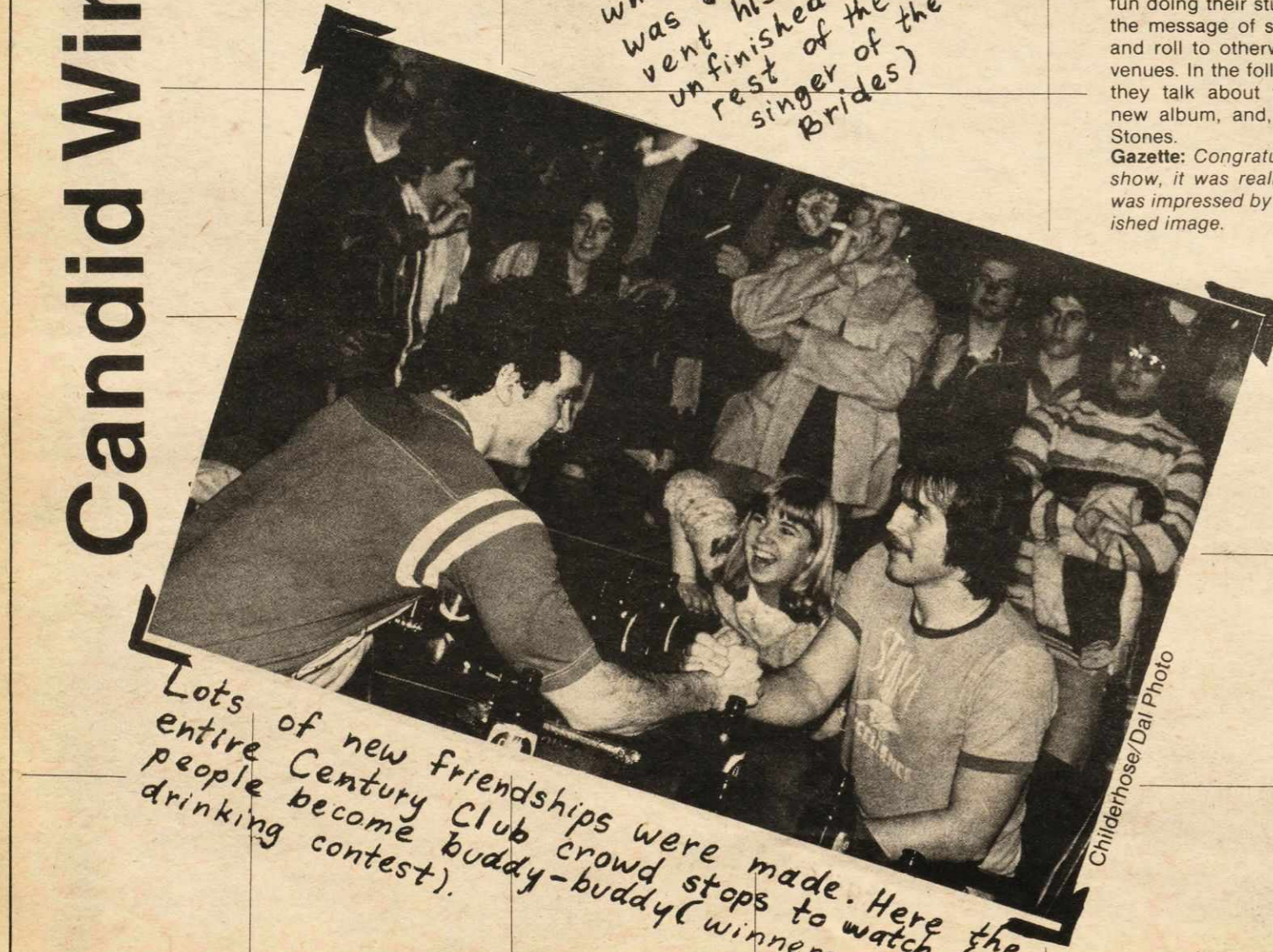
**Paul:** You want details? (laughter) But seriously, we watch M\*A\*S\*H three times a day in the States.

**Richard:** It's our favourite show! (general agreement)

**Paul:** When M\*A\*S\*H comes on all activity stops and everyone huddles around the T.V., even if we've seen it before.



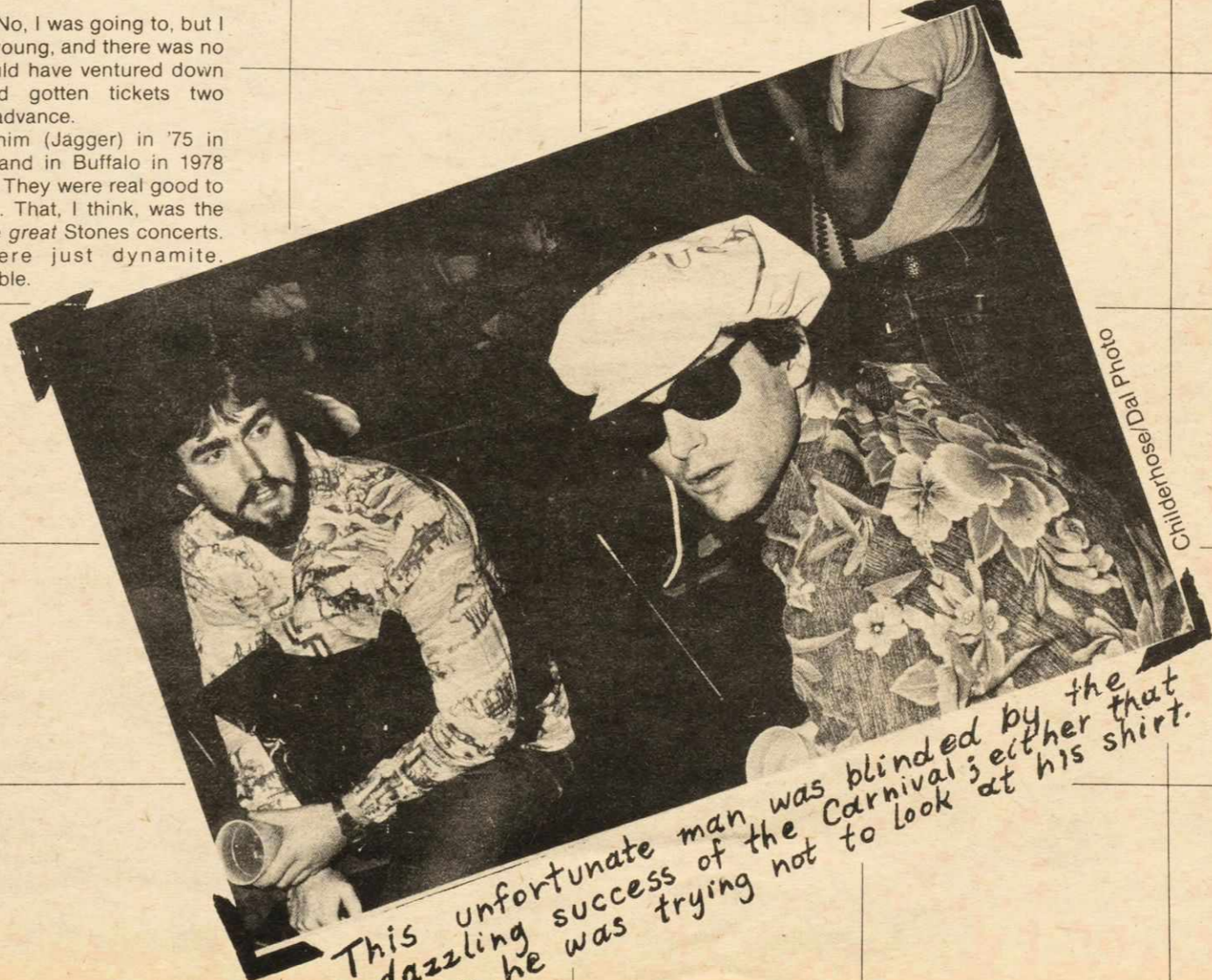
This man was justifiably angry when the water in his dormitory was shut off, causing him to vent his feelings about his unfinished shower to the rest of the school (lead singer of the Blushing Brides)



Lots of new friendships were made. Here the entire Century Club crowd stops to watch two people become buddy-buddy (winners of beer drinking contest).



This was the Tug-a-Degree contest. These students are battling with their professors for their pigskins.



This unfortunate man was blinded by the dazzling success of the Carnival, either that or he was trying not to look at his shirt.

Candid Winter Carnival

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