

# Bryan Adams gets inspired to "go nuts"

by Gary P. LeBlanc

*Bryan Adams* is Canada's fastest rising pop star and with his band, is blitzing the Atlantic Region; dates include the Misty Moon, the Palace and tonight's Winter Carnival super sub. The tour follows hot on the heels of his third album's release, *Cuts Like a Knife*.

*Adams'* live performance offers a slightly harder edge to the studio recordings. All of the band is part of the show, each member adding a little of his own electricity to the general excitement. One can't help feeling that here is a performer who is honestly committed to what he's doing. And what is he doing? *Bryan Adams* is out to provide an entertaining diversion to life's routine.

His songs are full of the shy, superficial teenage longings that have always characterized "pop" music. That isn't so bad when you consider the quality of his songs as "pop" songs. If last Friday night at the Moon was any indication, *Bryan Adams* and company are making these gigs count in a substantial effort to enlarge their following.

I spoke with *Bryan* last Friday night for a few minutes and this is how it went:

Gary: You say you want people to "go nuts" at your shows. Have they been doing that here on the east coast?

Bryan: This is only our third show (of the tour.) They went nuts tonight. You were there, what do

you think?

Gary: I think they enjoyed it. You got people dancing . . .

Bryan: They went nuts.

Gary: When so many people have played rock'n'roll through the years, what makes your music so energetic?

Bryan: I think a lot of it has to do with the hair on my legs. Seriously, I don't know, I just go out and do it. When it feels good, you do it.

Gary: With all the social and political awareness in new music, maybe you do provide a real escapism through pure entertainment . . . ?

Bryan: I think you've answered your own question there.

Gary: You're not writing as many fast songs nowadays . . .

Bryan: Have you heard the new album?

Gary: Yeah.

Bryan: You don't think there are any fast songs on it?

Gary: There are a couple of outstanding cuts on it like 'Don't Make me lonely.'

Bryan: There's always a couple tracks that are pretty fast and there are always a couple that are pretty slow. I like to pace my albums so there's a little bit of both.

Gary: Aside from music what are you interested in?

Bryan: I like cruisin'.

Gary: Cars, Bikes?

Bryan: I've got a Yamaha 500.

Gary: What inspires you?

Bryan: I get inspired by my surroundings — depending on what's going on. In an audience situation, as far as I'm concerned, there's no show if there's no audience.

Gary: Do you get times when you're creatively dry?

Bryan: Sure, everyone does.

Gary: Your live show tends to be a real band effort. Is recording that way?

Bryan: Yeah, definitely. I think it shows on the albums too.

Gary: Do you ever listen to your own music at home?

Bryan: Yeah, sometimes. I have two record collections. I have my "rock" records and I have my classical collection. Lately I've been listening to a bit of both.

## White Label's got African rhythm

by KimRilda van Feggelen

It's about time I sit down to write this review, as the concert in question took place over two weeks ago — Jan 14, to be exact, at the Art College. However, I was so impressed with the new Halifax band *White Label* that I feel they deserve some attention.

*White Label* consists of a guitarist, a bass player and three "percussionists" who switch instruments continually, from drum kit and bongos to tambourines and blocks. Drummer Heather is dynamite; she's one of the best I've ever seen. She plays with a constant smile too — you just know she loves to play. Guitarist Ken is from the States, and back home he's jammed with big names like Fred Frith, avant

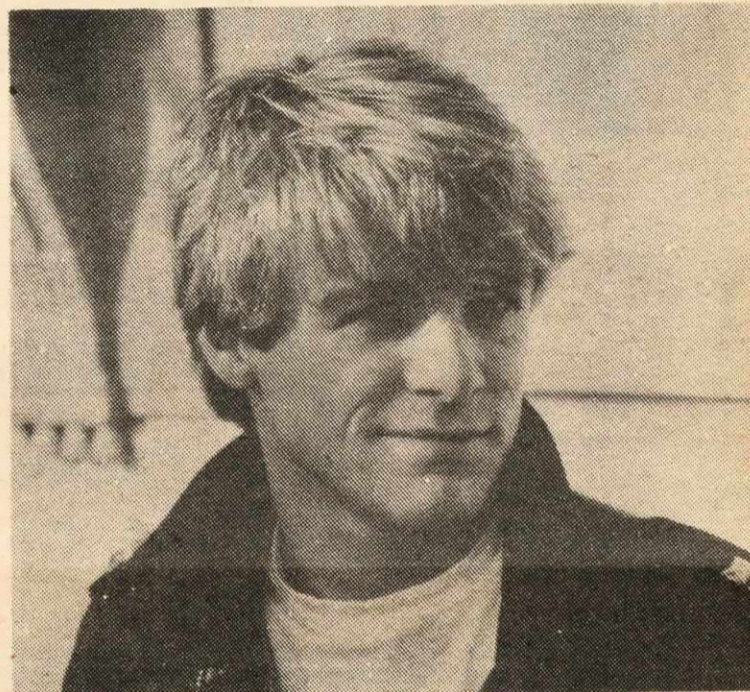
garde jazz guitarist. Clancy Dennehy makes some great rhythms with his bongos and even a xylophone.

*White Label's* repertoire consists mostly of African rhythm music. For the first tune of the evening, the group members each played drums. The music is varied enough, however, to include an energetic and spirited version of Brin Eno's "Baby's On Fire," but without vocals. It would be good to see this band try to incorporate some vocals, as the crowd was quite taken aback by this African instrumentalist material. Still, there was no shortage of people dancing.

This band will be doing some gigs around Dal in the near future, including a Grad House perfor-

mance this Friday, Feb 4. They also have been asked to perform at 'African Night' in February. I highly recommend them!

*No Frills*, the 'back-up' band, are also worth seeing. Their set was wonderfully varied, from Costello to reggae to long forgotten hits. The lead singer and guitarist looks like Tom Petty and has the same shy stage presence. This band really sounds good because of the drummer, Heather (yes! in both bands!). Her energy seems to overshadow the rest of the group, who show little stage motion. Some work on a more exciting stage presence would help this group, as their sound is tight and clean enough to really go somewhere.



Rising rock and roll star Bryan Adams

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