

Former Yorkite partial to punk

By Evan Adelman

The Diodes, a Toronto-based rock outfit, and Canada's premiere "new-wave" attraction, found their calling in the fall of '77, when the punk rock phenomenon was at a peak in North America.

At the time, Paul Robinson, the group's outstanding front man, was enrolled in classes here on York's campus. Robinson is presently regarded as one of Canada's most vibrant vocalists, and is a powerhouse of energy on stage.

With an AM charted single release, a brilliant debut album, and a major concert tour of the

able to express myself in the confines of a classroom. I may return to school sometime in the future, providing I can secure the time.

EXCALIBUR: Why have the Diodes been off the road for the past few months?

PAUL: We finished a tour with The Dead Boys and The Stranglers and then returned home and did two nights at The El Mocambo here in T.O. The latter was taped and broadcast on CHUM-FM's "Night At Eleven." Since that time, I've been vacationing as well as promoting the group in Britain. Our drummer John, on the other

the negative response he's been shown by his fellow countrymen. The Diodes have only been accepted in Toronto and the rest of

Canada remains virtually oblivious to their existence.

"If this is any indication of how other Canadian bands are being

treated, then the industry is without a doubt in the midst of a major identity crisis," said Robinson.



Paul Robinson, second from right, third from left, smiles cherubically at York Glee Club practice.

United States which included such cities as Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, all in the 77-78 season, it would have seemed as though co-ordinating one's activities to revolve around scholastic goals would have been near impossible. After juggling schedules and ducking into corridors to avoid professors for an entire school year, the multi-talented Diode decided to place his utmost concentration and emphasis on pursuing a full-time career in the rock music field.

Recently in a telephone interview, Excalibur was able to obtain an update on former student Paul Robinson, leader and lead singer of this decade's most innovative and electrifying Canadian aggregation — *The Diodes*.

EXCALIBUR: Are you finished with York, and education in general?

PAUL: Not forever, 'cause forever's a pretty long time. I can't really say that I'm throwing away my educational dreams either. Right now, I'm pursuing a career, one that I've been interested in since I was very young. Performing for and in front of people has always given me an immense feeling of satisfaction and I wasn't

hand, has performed as a special guest with The Curse and The B-Girls.

EXCALIBUR: How long has it taken to complete the album?

PAUL: Approximately a month and a half. We did it at Eastern Sound down in Yorkville. It will be out in October.

EXCALIBUR: How did you like going to York?

PAUL: I've got a good deal of fond memories which had their beginning on campus. I only wish the Diodes could have played at one of the colleges while I was still enrolled. There is a possibility, however, that we may be performing at York within the next few months."

Robinson also expressed his concern with the present state of the Canadian music industry. Part

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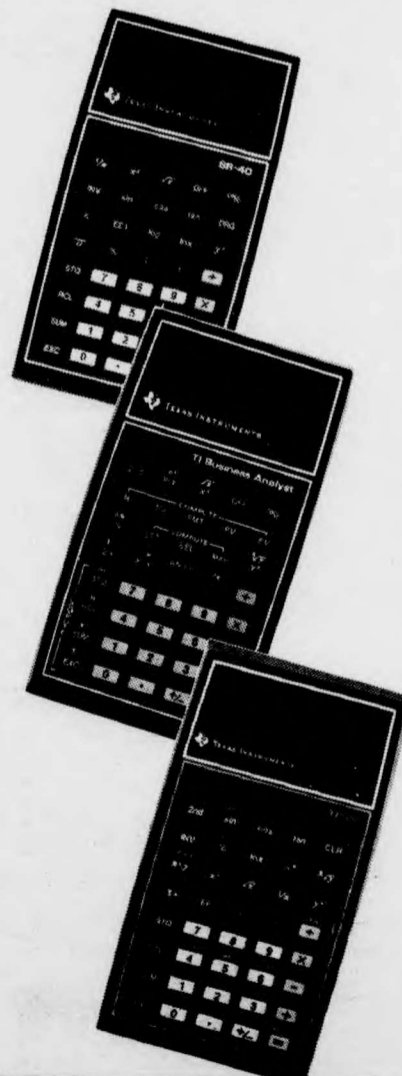
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