

chsr fm

Interview with Felix Klaus

by Melynda Jarratt
BRUNSWICKAN STAFF

Last Wednesday afternoon, Mike Levesque of CHSR hosted a half-hour interview with Felix Klaus, a rock musician from Basle, Switzerland. Sitting in the informal atmosphere of one of CHSR's production rooms, Mike and Felix spent an interesting afternoon discussing Klaus's Swiss band called *The Sidekick* and in general spoke at great length about the state of the European music industry.

Klaus cuts a modest and unimposing figure and proved to be quite willing to speak in considerable detail about his own music, which he describes as a cross between traditional rock and new wave. *The Sidekick*, he explained, have been together for approximately two years now, and already they have quite a few accomplishments under their belts. The band has impressed enough important people on the Basle music circuit to be able to perform live on DRM,

(the major Swiss Radio Station), at several open-air concerts, and to be part of Basle Collection '85, a compilation of ten different bands from the Basle music circuit.

The inspiration for Basle Collection '85 lies in the recognition of aspiring young bands (who perform their own music) by an interested music industry. Klaus explained -over a period of three months, local bands were invited to participate in a competition held at the Club Atlantis. The Atlantis is perhaps the only true stage in Switzerland in which Swiss and other European bands can expect a refin-

ed and somewhat credible reception along with a great deal of exposure. To appear at the Atlantis is to have matured as a band, and to be accepted as an equal among others. Many of the big European bands who are on a swing through Western Europe and who do not perform at the St. Jakob Stadium play at the Club Atlantis, so it has therefore gained wide respect and recognition not only in Switzerland, but on the rest of the continent as well.

As a result of their three night gig at the Atlantis, *The Sidekick* ended up winning the contest along with nine other bands who appear on Basle Collection '85. In early August 1985, the band recorded the single *Walking on the Streets of Doubt*, and by November, the finished album was released in Switzerland.



CHSR's Mike Levesque and Felix Klaus

So what does the music sound like, you ask? Well, if you were listening to Mike Levesque's show on Thursday morning, you would have had

- in fact, it is just the beginning for this aspiring group of young musicians who are talented and productive

thumb that if you want to gain some international reputation, you must write and perform in English, the language of the music world.

What does Klaus think of the Canadian way of live performance? Well, it appears that he was impressed by their quality in regards to vocals, equipment, etc, but he was somewhat surprised to see that in contrast to the Swiss music scene, these bands will stick to the usually safe top 40 instead of performing their own music. In addition, he said that in comparison to the Canadian style of playing in one club for 4 or 5 nights in a row, in Switzerland, most bands would play a maximum of 3 nights, and most often, one night gigs. In Switzerland that may be due to the fact that the Atlantis is the only quality stage to play upon, and because of stiff competition, opportunities to play there are limited. However, in the summer, outdoor concerts are the rule rather than the exception, so *The Sidekick* is looking forward to a profitable summer playing outdoor concerts in 1986.

So what does the future hold for Klaus and *The Sidekick*? Anything is possible, he explained, but right now the important thing is to be satisfied that their music is good enough, and then to embark on greater plans. First on that list is to get a successful manager and then to break into the music industry with a solid contract. It all depends on money, he said, "Anybody can cut a record or tour as long as they have the proper amount of financial backing. In this sense, the music industry in Europe is quite similar to that of North America."

(perhaps two of the most necessary ingredients for success).

Klaus writes his music in English, which can be difficult at times when you consider that his native tongue is Swiss-German. However, he says, whenever he is in doubt, there is always his German-English dictionary, or someone who speaks English well enough to correct the more obvious mistakes. As in one case when "the blood in my veins" became "the brood in my jeans", and was only altered due to the awareness of one English speaking person. It can be funny sometimes, but the band is trying to iron out these sort of things. Besides, he said, it gives us the chance to practise our English, which seems to be one of the more important items on their list of things to do. Perhaps that is due to the very nature of the music industry. As Klaus said, "A lot of the European bands write their music in French, German, Norwegian, or Italian," but it would appear as a rule of



But perhaps in the future, who knows? *The Sidekick* could turn out to be another of the many European bands who have been able to break into the North American market and be a success. When that happens you will be able to say, as Mike Levesque put it, "I knew them when ..."



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As a result of their three

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(from Third Statement)

Old fellow meets young virgin
"...tell me I'm pretty," she said.
And I, with innocence still cherished,
invoked a purple star
to help weave garnered fantasies;
convinced her she was beautiful,
and came very close to tears.

If there is a good response, Third Statement will be printed in booklet form and sold at cost. (Don't care much about money but libel suits, though not expected, would be nice.)

As agreed, a number of amusing - friends say, "hilarious" - items are included: "Moments with the editor", "A stunning farewell to pesky Mormons", "Introduction", "None but a loving brother", "Through adversity", etc.

("Tom Crowther!" is hardly worth reading but it filled a bit of space.)

Regarding the rather lengthy "Incident and aftermath" - Mr. C.H. Bud Forbes wouldn't apologize for his nauseating remark; others...

Item Eleven, which has frightened some Jews and angered some Gentiles, is dedicated to very dear friends.

Interested readers please write: Maurice Spiro, 532 Tweedsmuir St., Fredericton, N.B. Or phone: 455-7435.

For nobody special

Will you brand me:

monster,
traitor,
madman,
fool,
prevaricator?

Your palisades aren't what they seem;
if all love gold who's left to dream?

Bahá'í Faith

It teaches:

"It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving kindness."

For more information, * 472-2630
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