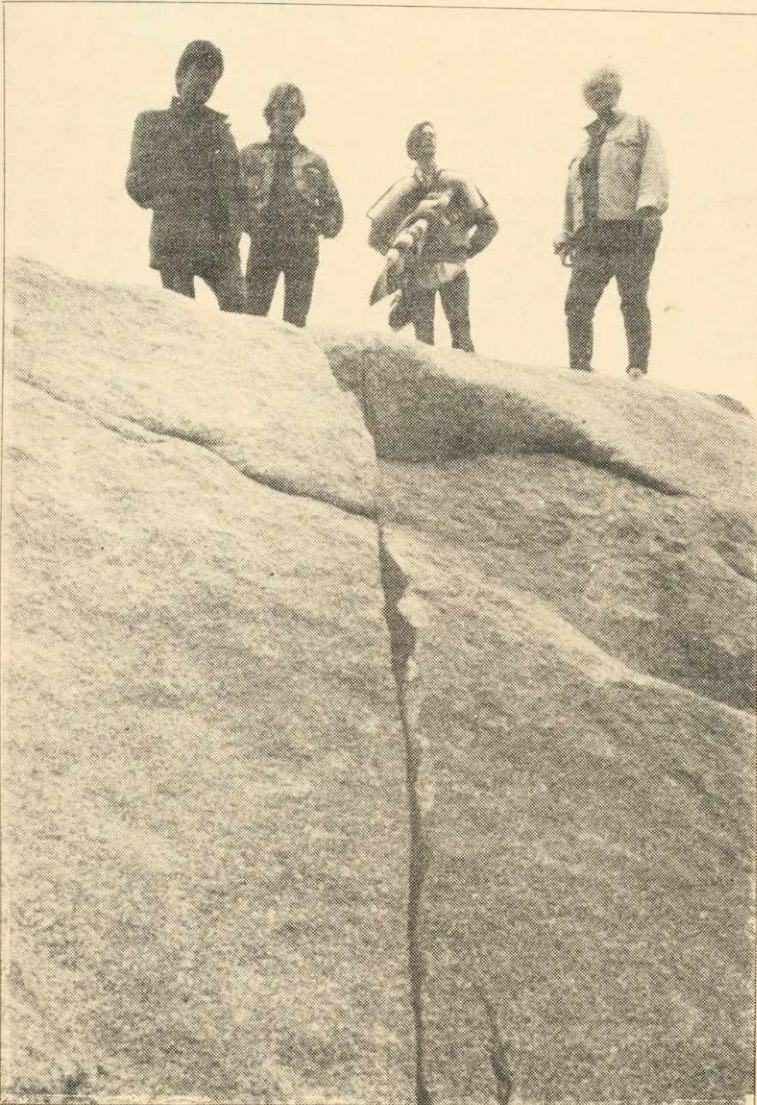


# JELLYFISHBABIES TAKE ON THE WORLD

## ... STARTING WITH CLUB FLAMINGO



See them live and up close, Hallowe'en, Club Flamingo.

### GILLIAN MCCAIN

The Jellyfishbabies evolved from a band called 68CarPileUp. See, what happened was, Scott Kendall, who used to play in a band called Lawnboy and then a band called Anal F\*\*\* ("No, I didn't tell my mother the name of the band") formed a band with Dave Schellenberg and some other guys called Bad Art ("We found the name on a rubber stamp") which eventually broke up only to find Scott and Dave forming the basis for 68CarPileUp.

Scott was the singer, Dave the guitarist, Colleen Britton the drummer and they had two different bassists, one being Scott's girlfriend. "That was a real mistake," he admits. Dave adds, "Yeah, she never brought her bass to practice."

"So after a few days, everything was going groovy, just basically sound, and Scott was saying to me 'Gee Dave this is going to pretty nicely' and the next time I saw him he said, 'We ought to break this band up' (laughter). It was just like that, too."

Meanwhile Scott ran into Peter Arsenault at a Burger King and invited him to his house to jam. Although they had been on-and-off childhood friends they hadn't spoken to each other for a year and a half.

Putting past differences behind them in the name of music, they got together with Colleen and a bassist who "admitted he wasn't any good" and jammed some blues. Pete took the initiative of asking Dave to play bass for this new band he was in called 68CarPileUp in which Dave replied, "I'm already in that band" so Dave switched from being guitarist in the first line-up to bassist in the second line-up and the rest is history. Through a series of both misunderstandings and 'being in the right place at the right time' the Jellyfishbabies were formed.

Their first gig was in August of 1985 where they played with Killing Time at the Veith House. "It was really bad," admits Scott. They played twenty-five songs in the space of an hour; all of them were originals except covers of 'Bad Moon on the Rise' and 'Farewell to Nova Scotia'. Rule number 1 seemed to have been to make the lyrics rhyme and the lines 'It's really sad/I'm feeling really bad' showed up in three different songs. They even printed some lyrics on the tickets. But it couldn't have been that bad because they caught the eye of Club Flamingo promoter Greg Clark who offered them a gig the following month with the Misery

Goats and Ridge of Tears.

Not bad for four people who all but one were still in High School. Although they started off wanting to be a rhythm and blues band, their style definitely leaned more towards hardcore and their sound today seems to have evolved from that. Colleen says, "We've lost a lot of hardcore — whatever they are — fans. I don't know why — I think they're just stuck in that sort of scene where they'll only listen to one kind of music." And Scott feels that "we don't want to connect ourselves with any musical slot. Hopefully in the future something will happen where we'll have Jellyfishbabies music. I mean, the Beatles didn't find it until 'Rubber Soul' or something... the thing is to just keep playing so we can find that. I mean, there are a few songs where I can look at and say, 'that's the sound of the Jellyfishbabies' whereas you really can't stick a label to it."

And that's what it is. Jellyfishbabies music. It's a mixture of a lot of different styles and although they don't want to be labelled, when Colleen threw down the phrase 'folkcore' it seemed to me to be perfect. Sort of Bob Dylan meets Husker Du.

Which brings us to their album, entitled simply "Jellyfishbabies". Less than thirty minutes long but more than wonderful, the album is an incredible and exciting accomplishment for a band so young. Produced and executed by PLOT Records and Filmworks, a group of three, on-the-move Halifax guys (Curphey Forrestal, Moritz Gaede and Sean Murphy), the album is the first one from the Halifax underground scene. And the Babies have nothing but high acclaim for PLOT. As Pete says, "PLOT started out with nothing and didn't promise anything but six months later they have an album out." And the Babies like the album. Sort of...

Scott, who wrote all the songs on the album except for two that Pete wrote, remarks, "Well, we're not totally pleased with it. We see a lot of mistakes but the thing is that we've got it out." And Colleen says that "it's old. It's very old stuff and it took so long for us to get this out I can't wait to get something else out. That was our sound six months ago but now we sound a bit different... so it sounds good for that time but now we are changing."

These changes in sound can be heard in a single they hope to have out within the next couple of months. Described as everything from kinda folksy to kinda psychedelic to "Brian Adamsy" (quote by Colleen who HATES SLOW SONGS), the single will mark the beginning of the Babies experimenting with some new styles on vinyl.

Recently the Babies played gigs in Fredericton, Montreal and Ottawa. The highlight was Montreal where they played at the Rising Sun ("George Thorogood played on that stage and that's good enough for me" — Pete) and

were ecstatic about the response they received. When I asked how they knew that the audience liked them, Dave replied, "They applauded loudly and enthusiastically and there were people sitting on the edge of the stage going like this (starts dancing with his head). These are all signs that they are appreciating it." Scott commented, "The thing is with those people is that they're the kind of crowd that if they didn't like you you'd know really soon. You'd get the occasional snarky comment like Get a F\*\*\*ing Haircut and that was really neat to see that they were being honest 'cos if they didn't like you you'd know... but we didn't get blown off the stage or anything so that was encouraging. "They didn't play until twelve midnight and Pete said the "people stayed and missed their subways and buses

just to hear the end of our show." Some people even recognized them on the street the next day.

When I suggested they do a TV show on Halifax cable, the ideas ran rampant. A pseudo comic book show — "Babies Take on the World" (Dave says that they had been thinking of doing a comic on their album — "I think we were going to take on God in the first one...") or a parody on the Monkees. "Hi! We're the J-E-L-L-Y-F-I-S-H-B-A-B-I-E-S!"

Colleen says that "basically we're all lazy and we don't want to work nine-to-five." I wouldn't call them lazy yet I couldn't see them working nine-to-five, either. Let's just hope that they keep on doing great stuff like they have been doing and for a long time to come. Check them out live at the opening of the Club Flamingo on October 31st.



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(next door to the Carleton Hotel)

- Large screen videos
- Dancing nightly 'til 2:00 a.m.
- Specials all week long

Check out our

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Friday, Oct. 31st  
Prizes for Best Costume &  
Best Frog Costume

Halifax's newest is really hopping!