## General Public successful reincarnation

By RICK JANSON

mbodying a careful marriage of Carribean rhythm wave music, the English Beat appealed to a broad audience when their first album, Just Can't Stop It, appeared in 1980.

After two follow-up albums and a greatest hits LP, the band disintetheir unique sound would ever reappear.

When listning to the opening track of All The Rage, the premiere offering from General Public, it is as if an old friend has returned.

Ranking Roger and David Wakeling-two former members of the Beat-have assembled a new band together that initially sounds

In Not Your Cool the danceable rhythms, the energetic performance, the sexy sax and Ranking Roger's vocals break over you like a wave.

As the LP progresses though, some elements of the former band become noticeably absent. Much of the gritty Carribean feel to their music has disappeared. A pop style has taken over the dominant role in what was formerly an equal marriage. The brass is also a lot less evident in the new band as guitars and keyboards play a larger role.

After getting over the differences between the old band and the reincarnated one, there is still a solid album left inside the sleeve.

In addition to the five members of General Public, a number of

give the music a variety of textures and styles. Particularly noticeable is the Clash's Mick Jones, whose guitar work has a strong presence on

The lyrical style has also progressed. In addition to the innocuous, playful lyrics that distinguished much of the Beat's work, there are a number of songs that are more a rallying cry than the kind of social criticism we previously saw in songs like Mirror In The Bathroom. In General Public, the band is critical of the forces that control society and the chorus urges the general public to strike back.

In Day-to-Day the band recomends:

Fast for the running, keep

vour cool

and have your say say say say

silent hunger must get stronger

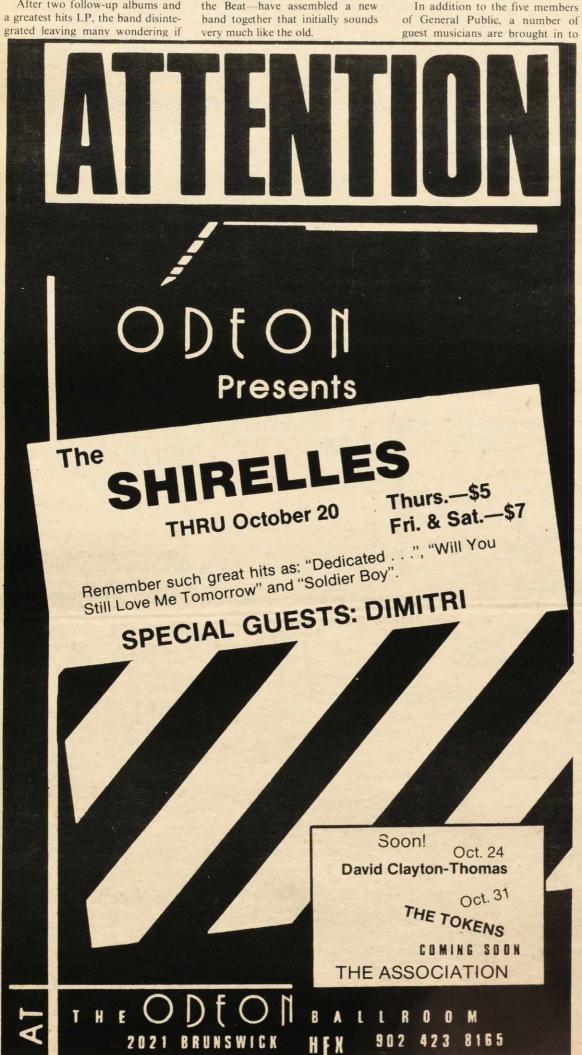
you're waiting for that day to day, day to day,

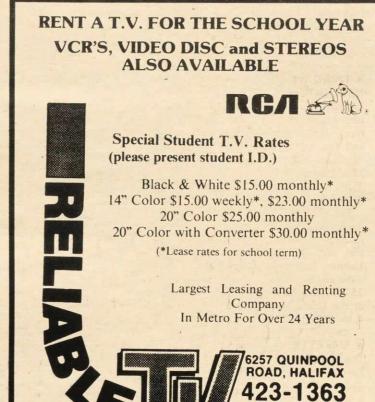
your reactions can make or break the world, stand and be part of what

you're meant to be, your reactions can hold or set

vou free, stand and be firm, just check the terms.

If anything, General Public seems to have found some direction in their work and are no longer content to be just another progreslive dance band. The golden age of protest music may yet return.





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