

Eye Eye: more than a Talent contest band?

by Dak Jiordani

Although it has taken them two years to produce their second album, Eye Eye has returned to radio airplay with a great collection of intelligent pop songs and have proved that they are more than a 'talent contest band'. Recently, they played four nights at the Misty Moon Cabaret, and the band revealed a bit about their history and music.

According to guitarist Andy Ryan, the core membership of the band was formed in 1983 when it was discovered that he had some songs and his long time friend,

drummer Mark Caporal, had some beer. The two got together, produced a demo, and shopped it around to various record labels for a deal. That did not immediately work out and they entered it in Q107's Homegrown contest of 1984. They had not initially wished to form a full band but the live performance requirement forced them to do so. They went on with the Homegrown contest and proceeded to enter and win a few more. But it was not easy, as lead singer Bill Wood pointed out: "These contests weren't just simply musical contests — we actually had all out war

with these other bands... and we beat the shit out of them!" But just when it looked like they would make a career of doing nothing but talent contests, they settled on a line-up consisting of Andy, Mark, Bill and bass player Doug Ruston, and signed a deal with Duke Street Records.

The record contract led to the production of their first album *Just in Time To Be Late*. The album produced three singles and enabled the band to gain exposure by being the opening act for such performers as Honeymoon Suite, Platinum Blonde, Gowan and Glass Tiger. After the initial success, however, it took two years to produce their second record, *Common Ground*. "The reason", Bill explained, "was that Mark didn't have a second case of beer!" "Actually", said Andy, "it just took us a couple of years to write the songs. We had to get some music together that would satisfy everybody involved with the process — the band, the producer and the record company." "The fact of the matter is," Bill added, "is that Andy and myself had written a lot of pieces of serious, darker music, a lot of different topics and moods, and they just kept getting the axe. We gotta make the record company confident and they want something that's competitive. As far as the direction of the record goes, we had to fight to get "Perfect Day" on the record and that's my favourite one! Even "Common Ground" was questionable and there were some songs that I thought would've been great tunes but didn't make it. It's not the record company's fault entirely, 'cause they would like to



Band members are: Andy Ryan, Tom Lewis, Bill Wood, and Mark Caporal. Duke Street Records.

present our poppy, more accessible side. We like to write pop songs and we do it well, but we only get to have two or three songs on a record that show more of our personalities, our deeper sides. They sound like pop songs but I like to keep my lyrics on an interpretive level, where they have different layers of meaning."

Comparatively, the two lead singles from *Common Ground*, "Endless Nights" and "My Sensation" are doing better business than the first two from *Just in Time to Be Late*. "If we were in this business just for the money and the success," noted Bill, "we would've been out of it years ago. We're getting higher chart numbers and we've still got a long way to go, but it's encouraging. As far as the sound of the band goes, we're a lot more cohesive and that's basically what keeps us going."

The new album is 'edgier', a point that could partially be attributed to their producer, David Bendeth. "Duke Street", explained Bill, "as well as us wanted someone who could bring out more of the edge of the band.

The songs on the last album lacked a bit of a live edge, and that kinda makes things difficult when on tour and you have to capture people's attention quickly. So, that's why the album has a little more energy, we just got a little more aggressive." In addition to record company interference, the band also dislikes being fed 'canned' material, that is, songs written by other artists. "I don't mind singing other people's tunes," said Bill, "but when you've been at this for as long as we have, you've got to have some control over your creativity."

Currently, the band plans to do a lot more touring before moving on to writing the songs for the next record. They have a new bass player, Tom Lewis, and they are looking forward to the challenges of the future.

"We're going to work this album for a while, probably release a third single, and after that, who knows? Our album's been released in Germany and it's possible that if it's successful over there, we might do a promotional tour of something. Just have to wait and see," said Mark.

THIS WEEKEND!

From Newfoundland--
Barry Canning
plays live
this Friday!

Back on the rock they yell "Bar-ry! Bar-ry!" Six foot tall, 200 pounds of singer with a flaming mane of red hair, Barry Canning has opened for Frozen Ghost, Zappacosta, Glass Tiger and others. Don't miss him this Friday for two shows -- 3 pm and 9 pm!

Plus!
Saturday
Society Night

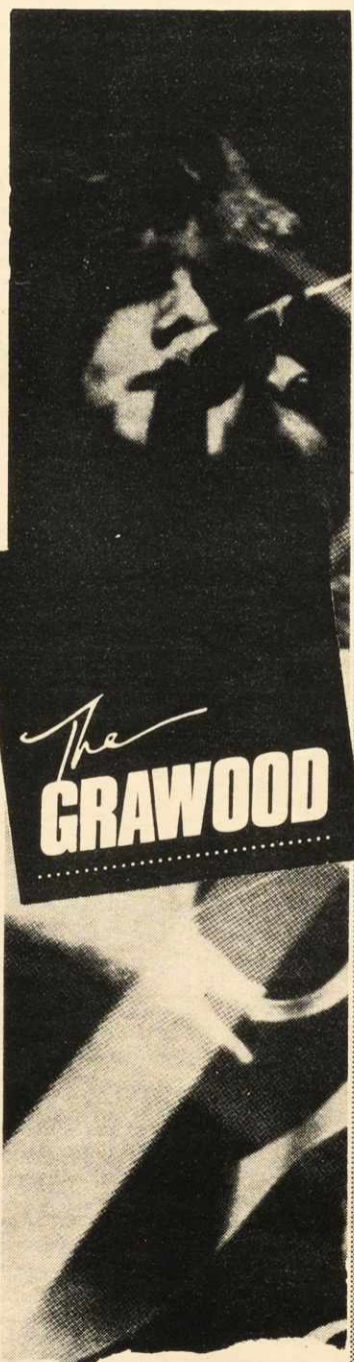
Monday
VIA's Game of the Week
NHL Hockey!

Tuesday
Win, Lose or Draw

Wednesday
CKDU Club Night
Broadcast Live!

Thursday
Start your weekend early with lots of great dancing activity at the Grawood!

Good food and great friends meet at the Grawood!



The Bear

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this creature, Popova (Carol Cude) is moved from indifference to anger, while Smirnov, entranced with her beauty and her strong will, falls in love. But this is hardly a love story. The humour is fast-paced and hard-hitting, whether evolving from this battle of wills or from a moment of chaos, such as when the hunched old servant Looka (John P. Beale), treated with all the respect of a sick dog, collapses in a panic, ignored by these two warriors of words.

Thankfully, though, the laundromat piece was shown first. Otherwise, its more subtle humour would have been overshadowed by the chaotic comedy of *The Bear*. At any rate, the two plays should not be compared. One is a tragic comedy whose recognizable characters force us to laugh at ourselves while the other portrays the absurd human soul which vacillates between hatred and love. If nothing else, these works shared players that were talented, entertaining and devoted to their craft.



1989



J. Haliburton

They Say she's MAD. She kept her hairstyle and some of her clothes from her 60's youth for her executive position. But she has integrity. Her friends only dress up to go dancing!