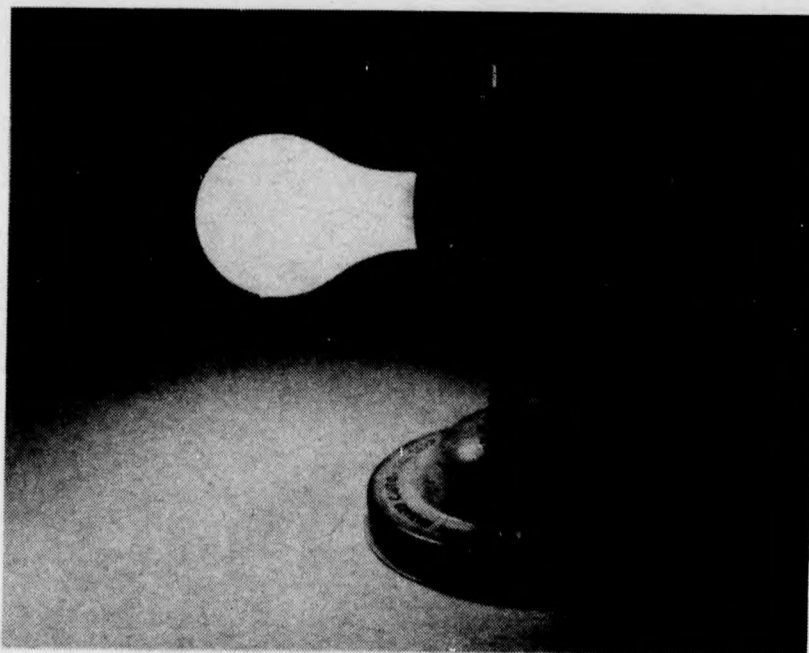


Upcoming music concerts

This week sees the birth of a new concert calendar. All dates are accurate at press times. Below is a short review of the performer's past or latest album, or what to expect at the show. Tickets for most of the large venue shows are available at TicketMaster, or by phone, 870-8000. Operators are standing by...

The Bermuda Onion, 131 Bloor Street West, has lined up some great blues performers for the cold month of February. **Pinetop Perkins** (Feb. 4-6, \$8.00 for Tuesday and Wednesday, \$10 for Thursday - Second set half-price), **Junior Walker** (Feb. 7-9, Friday and Saturday \$15.00, Sunday \$10.00, second set half-price), **Jimmy Witherspoon** (Feb. 18-19, \$14.00 both nights) and **JUNIOR WELLS** (Feb. 27-29, price TBA).



Twilight Rituals: sometimes substituted for high-wattage.

The Underground, York's very own mega-superstar VH1 TV disharama bar, will be the site for **Still Life** on Wednesday, February 5. Their music combines the bubbly rhythmic pulse of Caribbean and African music with the down to earth, street-wise sound of urban rock rhythm and blues. Sounds confusing? Perhaps for labeling the band, but recent press reviews are favourably excited about them — with good reason. Their video, "If You've Got Money" can be seen on **Much Music** and **Video Hits**. Most of the band went to York at one time or another, so professors will be in the audience to hand out grades, just like old times.

Ice-T, another Lollapalooza act, performs in his hard rock-rap-body bag counting-style with his **Rhyme Syndicate** with special guests **Body Count** and **Hard Corps**. Tuesday, February 18 at the Concert Hall. If anyone is equipped to be the voice of L.A.'s black oppressed, it's the Original Gangster himself. It will be interesting to hear his earlier, rap-oriented songs played with a harder guitar edge.

Primal Scream's new album, **Screamadelica**, is a remarkable piece of work. The band's conversion from indie guitar underachievers to club-credible techno-groovers started with DJ Andy Weatherall's inspired rebuild of "I'm Losing More Than I'll Ever Have" and the alternative hit **Loaded**. They're at RPM, Tuesday, February 18.

Fabulous show by teeterers on the edge of huge fame

By Steve Balsky

The Fabulous Thunderbirds is a fine example of a band that always seems to be teetering on the edge of huge international acclaim but never quite reaching it. Despite their lack of wide success, the T-birds put on a terrific kick-ass rock n' roll show at the Phoenix Club on Thursday, January 23.

They swept through some of their earlier hits like "Wrap It Up," "Rock This Place," and "Down At The Antones." The energy never wavered as they performed "Twist Of The Knife," the first single off their new album **Walk That Walk, Talk That Talk**.

Frontman Kim Wilson was in fine form, belting out powerful vocals and literally smacking his harmonica during an astounding solo to milk it for all that was worth.

The highlight of the evening for

The Shamen will play the lead role in a rave at RPM 2000, Tuesday February 11. Various techno bands will perform in something not seen in this town since...well, never. "An amazing light and sound spectacular" is the word on the street, and for those who crave the rave, but those darn exams keep you from flying to London for a fortnight, this is gonna be one hell of a good night.

After dispensing three albums of non-stop electronic/industrial disco, Chelmsford pair Douglas McCarthy and Bon Harris, collectively **Nitzer Ebb**, have turned the tables on themselves by shoving guitars over everything on **Ebbhead**. It'll be interesting

Like Neil Young at full energy CONCERT

by Marcus Parmegiani

When the sun goes down on the weekend in Toronto, people let go and indulge in leisurely interests. Some flock to dance clubs that feature deafening decibels of music while others prefer to prepare for a hearing aid in front of a live band.

On Friday, January 17, I chose the latter, venturing out into the freezing cold to find entertainment and some suds. Luckily, I found them — at Clinton's, which has one of the smallest stages around, especially once the guitar amplifiers and drums are set up. This makes for an intimate setting that can be electrifying.

Twilight Rituals' music is a mix

to see if they are as simple onstage as their old counterparts Depeche Mode, or if they bring the more adventurous attitude of their record. Find out at The Phoenix Theatre, Thursday, February 13.

Robyn Hitchcock and the Egyptians' new album, **Perspex Island**, is business as usual. The lyrics, containing Hitchcock's idiosyncratic world view, are witty and well-crafted. Peter Buck and Michael Stipe guest on the album; "Oceanside" and "So You Think You're In Love" are glided with delicious three-part harmonies. It's a shame Hitchcock isn't more popular. Catch them at the El Mocambo, Monday, February 10.

Twilight Rituals
Clinton's
Friday, January 17

between The Talking Heads and Neil Young at full energy, with a twist of high spirited, Led Zeppelin style tempos. The band's sound was especially tight once they got in sync with each other.

Thomas Payne's guitar solos merited applause, while the rest of the band fervently showed off their talent. The antics of lead singer Grant Davidson could be seen as pretentious, but if you like a band that interacts with the audience, you'll appreciate Twilight Rituals.

Twilight Rituals has been together for about two and a half years, and the work shows. Almost all of the songs that they played were written by the band, and they have a self-produced tape. Word also has it that the band will record some of these songs for an album for major label EMI, which should surface within the year.

With some loud, unique rock n' roll sounds and theatrical stage antics, Twilight Rituals put on a great show to an enthusiastic audience at Clinton's on Bloor St. West. The opening songs were a little weak, but by the third or fourth tune they got themselves together.

Some of their best original tunes were "And The Sky Was Falling," "Polka Dot Gear" and the closing song "Twinkle in The Mind's Eye," which was punctuated by applause. The best response by far, however, was to their cover of Lou Reed's "Sweet Jane," which had the audience on their feet.

For live entertainment value Twilight Rituals were eager to please and a blast to watch, putting out unique rock n' roll that rivals many newcomers on the music scene today.

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