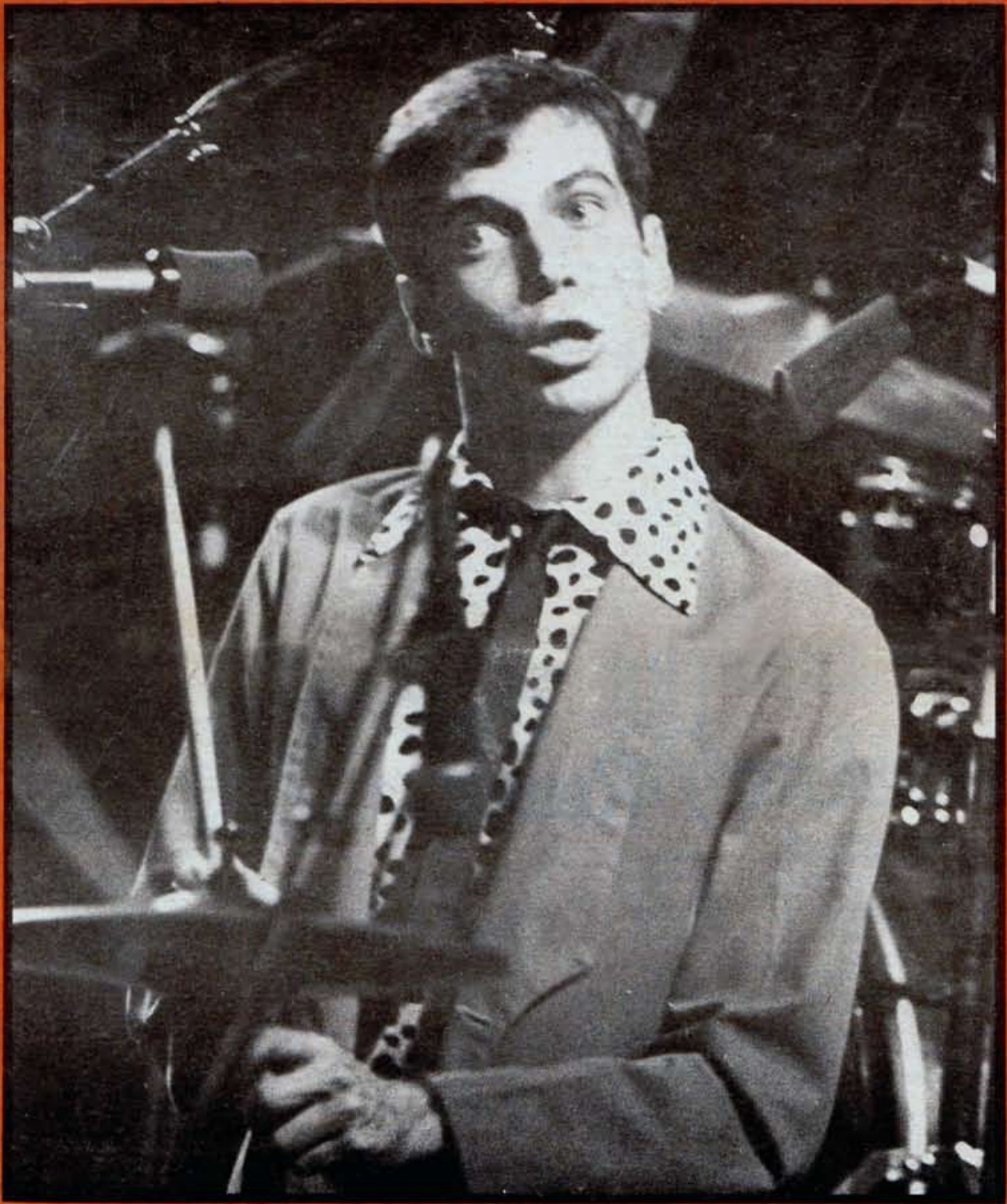


RAAG

FREE



The Cichlids



The Bee Gees



The Police



The Knack



In Concert

Story by Debbie Fedele

When we arrived at Gusman Cultural Center at 8:00, there was a huge crowd already gathered outside and they were obviously ready to punk.

Shouts of "Police" and "Cichlids" filled the noisy street in front of the theater. Most of the people were dressed for the occasion with their leop-

ard skin outfits and colorful plastic dark glasses.

Once the doors opened and the seats were found (not sat in, of course), there was a brief wait while the stage was being set.

The *Cichlids* were announced!!! By the audience's reaction, you would have thought that they headlined this event. As the 'Lids started the set with "Let's Go Menial" (a number which is rapidly becoming known as their theme song), the wild screaming and pogoing, that was to continue all evening, began. "Everybody's Gone Red" only heightened the excitement.

Soon it was time for *Debbie Mascaro* (lead singer/guitarist) to put down the guitar. We knew what was coming and were prepared for it. Her punked-out version of *Nancy Sinatra's "Boots"* was very well-received. She pranced, she danced, she pogoed, and she sneered at the crowd. All eyes were on her as every *Cichlids'* fan followed the motions and mouthed the words as if they had the *Cichlids'* act memorized.

Lead guitarist *Allan Portman* finally cut loose during "Boots" and covered the stage with his outrageous movements. Bassist *Susan Robins* was in direct contrast. She seemed bored with the whole thing. Feet planted firmly and her gaze fixed on some other strange land, she just played and chomped away on her bubblegum and blew an occasional bubble for the crowd's inspection. Meanwhile, drummer *Tak's* facial expressions defied description as he systematically pounded the punk beat on his drums.

The song "Fourteen or Fight" showed the entire group in full action from beginning to end. In this particular number they put out more energy than one could ever imagine. The deadbeats in the audience were even moving about!

The Cichlids

Photos by Dino Fedele

The whole place was punkin' with such fierceness that I'm surprised we all came out alive!!

Their last number "Ubangi Stomp" kept the crowd kicking and screaming. This was the peak of their performance and we were disappointed that it was ending.

Though, we all stood screaming and yelling for an encore, the house lights came on. The moans of disappointment filled the air for the first minute of intermission. The rest of the intermission was a cross between the 'Lids' fans praising their fantastic performance, the first impressions (I don't like punk, but I like the *Cichlids*) being exchanged, and some asking when *The Police* were coming on. For the majority of the audience, however, the highlight of the evening had already occurred and *The Police* performance would represent an anticlimactic ending. *Cichlids'* fans are loyal.

EDITORS NOTE: In the past it was a practice for national acts to book local talent as opening acts. This gave the local musicians some valuable experience and exposure. It would be nice to see history repeat itself a little in that respect. Perhaps this performance at Gusman with *The Cichlids* opening up will start a trend in that direction.

I'm sure much of the credit for what *The Cichlids* have managed to accomplish in just a short five months (including a recording contract with TK Productions) should go to "the fifth Cichlid," manager *Robert Mascaro*. Robert has been relentless in pounding the pavement to get his group the publicity they well deserve. Other bands should take heed . . . talent can get you far, but performing leaves you little to take care of business.



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On The Air

Story by Jim Johnson

October would seem to be the month for *The Cichlids*. Preceding their appearance at *Gusman* with the *Police* and their appearance "live" at

Peaches for Halloween, the group did a radio interview on *WSHE* with *The Late Buzz Kilman*. For close to two hours they took questions over open



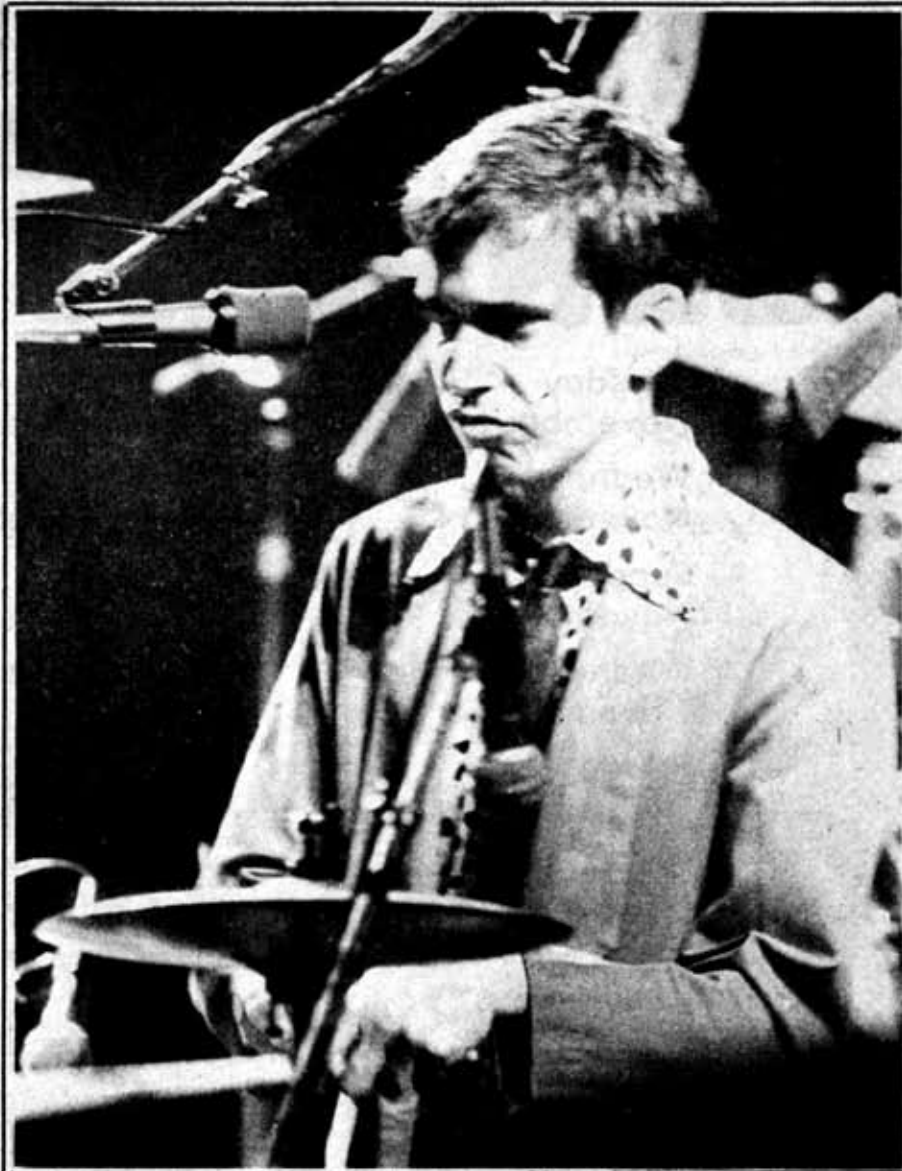
phone lines. The questions ran the gamut from how old the group members are to what color panties Alan is wearing. Most of the questions were pretty straight forward and the caller was usually sincere about what he or she was asking.

The favorite caller was the *Emily Latella* sound-alike who called and complained . . . "What's all this I hear about Sick Kids." Sorry, Emily, close but no cigar.

Another caller asked how many albums they had out. It was a fair question because they were playing tapes of three songs throughout the show: "14 Or Fight," "Bubblegum," and "Follow The Trend." No album is out as of yet, but they go into *T.K. Productions'* studio starting in November. An album should be out in January of 1980. Producer *Ann Holloway* will be at the board.

One question that never got a straight answer was "Is the band New Wave or punk?" Let's put it this way, it's their hope that their music is original enough that you won't have to use a label to describe it. Once you start to pin a label on, then you start to limit the audience and that's not fair to any band. I suppose the closest thing to an answer was "Cichlid music," and drummer *Bobby Tak* also described it as "fun" which is true enough.

Other questions were in the line of "How did you get your name?" — *Debbie* came up with it. "Who were your influences?" — *Bobby* likes the *Monkees* and *Susan* has none. "What is a Cichlid?" — A tropical fish that hatches its young in its mouth. And "How long have you been together?" — This band has been around five months but it went through various personnel changes before



this line-up.

Alan, *Debbie*, and *Tak* did most of the answering, but you could tell *Susan* was close by the sound of rapid fire bubblegum snapping away in the background.

The show was a pleasure for everyone involved and *Buzz* said it was one of the most enjoyable shows he's done in a long time and that everyone was continuously smiling throughout the session.

Now with the *Police* show and the *WSHE* simul-cast at *Peaches* and once of the way, they can work on that album and once it's released, put *Dania* on the map. Good luck, *Lids*.

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