

Here's what happened behind the music scene

By Nick Charles
special writer

Each year in the music business is as exciting and crazy as the last, and 1981 was no exception.

It's amazing how many people come up to me in the course of a year and tell me how they wish they had my job. After reading this, maybe some of these people will put away their rose-colored glasses and be happy with the job they have.

This section could easily be titled "The no-good, the bad and the ugly" (as well as the extremely frustrating). Those who think the world of rock and roll and music journalism is easy and all fun have a lot to learn. The following stories are my way of letting down the image and laughing at my own mistakes and misfortunes throughout the year.

In May, I was in Ann Arbor to talk to Robin Lane & the Charbustlers at the Second Chance. Though the Charbustlers were friendly, Miss Lane was not. She seemed to think my questions were lacking and humorous. Only months later, I found it humorous that the only thing she was lacking was a band. The members of the Charbustlers left her and her moods alone.

ON SEPT. 16, when most smart media people were enjoying a peaceful evening listening to the beautiful ballads of Australia's Air Supply at Ford Auditorium, this reporter had to make the heroic decision to brave the unseasonably cold rain to see the legendary Kings at Pine Knob. After enjoying most of the show from the wings, one of the road crew mistook me for a fan and literally threw me off the stage by my throat. (Luckily, I landed on my feet.)

On Sept. 30, Detroit-born Alice Cooper played Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor. Cooper road manager Dan Stevenson gave me the complete runaround. The next morning, I was still waiting for my interview. All I got was a "hello" and a handshake before they led Cooper out the back entrance of his room as he boarded his bus. Thanks for nothing.

One of the strangest with ex-Jefferson Starship vocalist Marty Balin. Balin called at 9 a.m. one morning in October from New Orleans to talk about his solo album on EMI records. Halfway through the interview we were apparently interrupted (or I was led to believe) by an Indian gentleman who knew very little English. Either the telephone company has his wires crossed, or Balin craves his self-inflicted boredom in strange ways.

The most recent misfortune happened during the Billy Squier/Foreigner concert at Joe Louis Arena on Nov. 6. Foreigner's road manager, Alex King, decided he didn't want to be nagged about interviews, so most people were left out in the cold (literally). With the help of Capitol (Squier's label), I finally got into the show (which was half over) and confronted King, who obviously had very little to say. I consider myself fortunate since the same night a fellow reporter and dear friend ended up with a broken jaw from a couple of the geniuses hired to make our job easier.

ON A LIGHTER note, I went to talk to that working-class dog himself, pop singer/actor Rick Springfield, who was doing a record store promotion in Lincoln Park. Turned out I was recruited to keep 3,000 screaming female 14-year-olds away from Rick. Oh yeah, no interview. I did, however, get an interview with Tiny Tim (not the same day, of course).

Tiny gave me a private concert during which he sang and played his ukulele to a song called "I Wish I Was In Michigan." The new tune has all the charm of his previous hit, "Tiptoe Through the Tulips."

Now that I've got that off my chest, we can talk about the good things. The Rolling Stones' once-over-three-years tour landed on 1981 which brought them to the Silverdome for two spectacular shows. I'm happy to say that the whole ordeal was a success.

A somewhat-awaited show by Chrisie Hynde and the Pretenders finally materialized earlier in the year at the Royal Oak Music Theater on Aug. 19. Although the band had a great second album, the live show was somewhat monotonous.

THE DYNAMIC Pat Benatar played three shows at Pine Knob in September. On the last show, she donated her share of the earnings to an organization for Vietnam veterans.

Canada's hard rock trio, Triumph, played an excellent show at Cobo with Frank Marino on Oct. 3. Rocket Rik Emmett made his fingers fly on new songs from the album "Allied Forces."

New bands like Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Franke & the Knockouts, Silver Condor and Loverboy brought some fresh air to a sometimes stale rock scene.

On an even more local level, Detroit's new wheels, WLLZ, finally made the big move from Detroit to beautiful Farmington, Wisconsin. New hit makers, Radio City, hit the recording studio. This time it was in Toronto with Canada's A&M Record footing the bill. Can't wait to hear the album, that is if we know who you are. Seems Radio City is looking for a new name (any ideas?).

Last, but not least, here's my favorite 10 albums released in 1981. Thanks to my readers for making this such a great year.



Rick Springfield heads the list of favorite albums for 1981, with "Working Class Dog" on the RCA label.

1. Rick Springfield — Working Class Dog — RCA
2. Tom Petty — Hard Promises — Backstreet/MCA
3. Foreigner — 4 — Atlantic
4. Journey — Escape — Columbia
5. The Knack — Round Trip — Capitol
6. Pat Benatar — Precious Time — Chrysalis
7. Go Go's — Beauty & the Beat — A&M
8. The Pretenders — 2 — Sire
9. Billy Squier — Don't Say No — Capitol
10. The Police — Ghost In The Machine — A&M

CORSI'S
Full Cocktail Service
BANQUET/MEETING FACILITIES
ELEGANT PARTY ROOMS

DAILY SPECIALS

MONDAY Spaghetti w/meat sauce \$3.25	THURSDAY BBQ Ribs w/ribs \$5.25
TUESDAY Oven Baked Lasagna \$4.45	FRIDAY Broiled Rainbow Trout \$5.50
WEDNESDAY Homemade Gnocchi w/meat sauce \$3.95	SATURDAY NY Strip \$15.95
SUNDAY Fried Chicken \$3.45	

Includes:
Mistresson soup, salad and our famous homemade garlic roll!

Try our new whole wheat pizza

27910 W. Seven Mile
Livonia 531-4960 After 11 AM

WING YEE'S
CANTONESE AMERICAN CUISINE

- COCKTAIL LOUNGE
- BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEONS
- FAMILY DINNERS

CARRY-OUT SERVICE
BANQUET FACILITIES

OPEN EVERY DAY
Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sundays & Holidays 12-10 p.m.

591-1901
37097 SIX MILE AT NEWBURGH • LIVONIA

Kingsley Inn
To Be Certain.

A thoughtful way to welcome visitors or clients is a reservation at the Kingsley Inn Hotel.

We are near all business, sports and educational centers in the tri-county area.

Woodward and Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
644-1400

A festival in music for the whole family

It's singing, it's dancing, it's entertainment like you've never seen.

The Up With People Show is an internationally acclaimed cast of over 100 young people and dance their way right into your heart. With music from home and abroad.

Don't miss this chance to see this beautifully choreographed, colorful festival of music.

THE Up With People Show

FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 8:00 P.M. at these locations
Birmingham: Seaholm High School
Madison Heights: Bishop Foley High School
Pontiac: Pontiac High School

TICKETS \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students/senior citizens
Tickets available at Hudsons in Oakland Mall & Pontiac Mall.
Also at The Community House in Birmingham.

SUSSEX HOUSE
19701 W. 12 Mile at Evergreen
559-3377

BRUNCH Every Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Over 30 Items \$6.95 Adults \$4.95 12 & Under	SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BRUNCH January 24, 1982 WIDE SCREEN TV
--	---

Private Rooms for Your Holiday Parties
SAM JARRUS, General Manager

Orange Lake Drive
NOW THRU JANUARY 31st

Sundays:
Malone & Nootcheez
TUESDAY...All Ladies drinks 1/2 price
No cover . . . 334-4694

2262 S. Telegraph Road
N. of Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills

REJOICE!

Celebrate the many good tastes of the Mon Jin Lau during the Holiday Season.

MON JIN LAU
Mandarin • Szechwan • Hunan • Cantonese
Exotic Spirits
Maple Rd. at Stephenson Hwy. • Troy
689-2332

RIBS RIBS RIBS

At the new **Ribs**

OPEN SUNDAY: NOON 'TIL 2:30 AM

Ron Depalma & Jimmy Fields
Tues thru Sat for your listening & "Touch" dancing pleasures.

998 W. Huron
1 Block W. of Telegraph
Waterford 681-2161
for reservations

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

Carrie Lee's

Since 1950
WHERE DINING IS AN EXPERIENCE
Chinese Gifts & Farm Produce
(American Food also Available)
Cuisines from China
Culinary Art Works
Princess Ivory & Beautiful Art Works

Visit our Main Dining Room, surrounded by
Special detailed attention given to CARRY-OUT SERVICE

Private Rooms available for Parties 644-7576
High Moon-Tues 11 am-10 pm
Sun & Holidays 12-10 pm
856 N. Woodward, near Oak St., Birmingham

The Ginger Man Restaurant
Maple & Telegraph BLOOMFIELD PLAZA (MALL)
855-3313

DINNER SPECIAL
50% OFF We invite you to enjoy a 50% discount on our Dinner when a second Dinner of equal or greater value is purchased.
Good after 3 p.m. any day. Expires Jan. 14, 1982.
Excludes sandwiches & Carry-Out

• Complete Catering • Private Dining Facilities
• Office Parties • Christmas Parties • Call for price

GENERAL CINEMA THEATRES
Mon. thru Sat. 10:30 p.m.
Tuesday \$1.50 ALL DAY

SOMERSET INN
441-4411 1001 SOUTH OF MAPLE

CHEVY CHASE
SALLY NEWMAN
PALL FIELD
ABSENCE OF MALICE
1:05 - 2:15 PG
5:25 - 7:35 - 9:50

JOHN BELUSHI DAN AYKROYD
Lock the doors... here come the NEIGHBORS
1:20 - 3:20 - 5:20 - 7:20 - 9:20

Buddy's Bar-B-Que
"THE BUCKING GOOD"

Carry-Out • Catering • Seating • We Deliver
CALL FOR SPECIAL CATERING PRICES 851-4250
Open Mon-Sat. 11 to 9 p.m. Sun. 3 to 9 p.m.

\$200 Off Whole Slab Rib Dinner
W/Coupon. Expires Jan. 13. Pick-up Only. 1 Coupon per visit. Not Good with club card, Limit 2 diners

SUNDAYS AT SCHULER'S...

BRING YOUR BUNCH TO BRUNCH!

This Sunday take the whole family to a delicious Win Schuler's brunch. It includes all your favorites that make Sunday a very special family day. We're waiting for you...so call us now for reservations.

Children under 10 — \$2.95, adult's check includes children under 6.

Schuler's
ROCHESTER 2501 Rochester Rd. 852-8330
WEST BLOOMFIELD 6055 West Maple 851-8880
Brunch: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Brunch: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

STERLING HTS 3300 VAN DYKE RD. STERLING HTS. 978-2160
SUNDAY MATINEES DAILY 10:00 AM SHOW ONLY \$1.00

RAGTIME **THE NEIGHBORS**

FRIGHTENING **THE ROLLER** **SHARKY'S MACHINE** **GHOST STORY** **TALES** **THE RAGTIME**

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5 2400 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 332-0241

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10 2400 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 334-0811 ONLY \$1.00