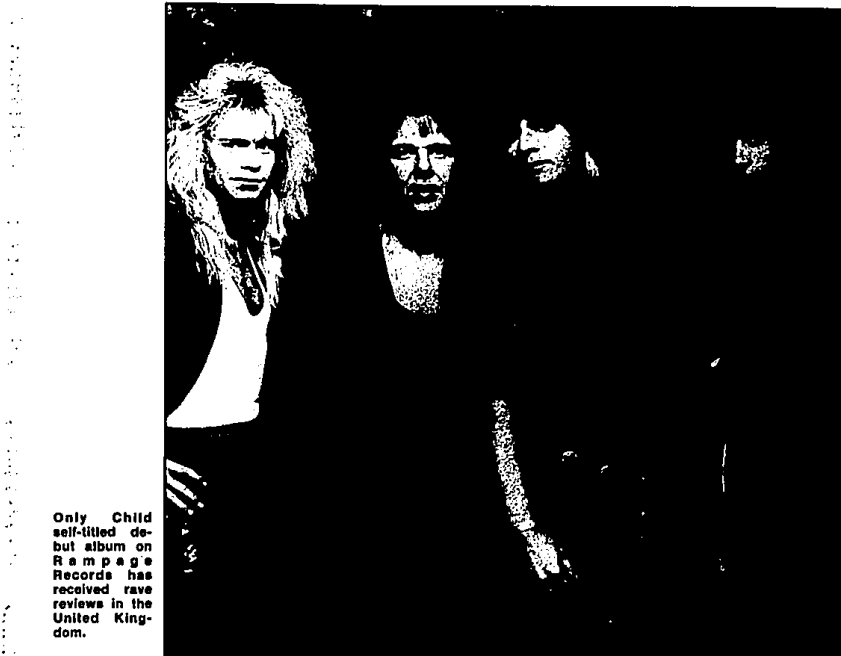


STREET BEATS



Only Child self-titled debut album on Rampage Records has received rave reviews in the United Kingdom.

Bad luck doesn't get Bronco Sisters down

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Whoever told the Bronco Sisters to "break a leg," well, they listened. And while they were at it, some group members also managed to fracture some hands and some arms. Within the last year, four of six Bronco Sisters have been in slings one time or another.

Forget the soundman. Get this band a physical therapist.

"We were considering playing hospital wards," said lead singer John Kennedy about the band's run of bad luck. "It was real frustrating after a while. Rando (Dawkins, guitarist) works for a hand specialist ironically enough. He sawed off his cast three times so he could play guitar."

Injuries sustained by the Bronco Sisters include Doug Dickson, broken right hand; Dan Indreica, injuries from a motorcycle accident; Kennedy, broken leg; and Dawkins, broken left hand. Dawkins and Dickson broke their hands the same day skiing.

Other band members Chris Brown of Birmingham and Jon Briggs have somehow escaped injury.

With the recent layoffs, the Bronco Sisters have only been able to make the MAH top 10 list. But the band is ready to move from the medical charts to the music charts.

The Bronco Sisters plan of attack includes a sound that encompasses both rock and roll and dance rhythms. Heavy drum and bass lines

are cemented with an array of atmospheric guitar work. Kennedy's vocals go with the flow, managing to rise above the beat to make his point.

LYRICALLY, the Bronco Sisters touch on the social issues of the day. But Kennedy said that is beginning to change.

Instead of becoming too heavy in the message department, there's been an attempt to lighten things up a bit. At the same time, the Bronco Sisters don't want to fall into the category of a junk band either.

Kennedy and Dickson will have to wrestle with that as the group's primary songwriters. As for the rest of the band Kennedy joked: "I don't think the rest of the band knows what we're singing about."

The Bronco Sisters are trying to get record companies to know what they're singing about. The recent time off has been put to good use. The band did some writing and recording of new songs.

With more of a focus, the Bronco Sisters plans to perform live again. Dates haven't been set yet, but look for them to kick in around September.

And they might not be found at one of the clubs in the area.

The Bronco Sisters have put a twist on playing live by doing gigs at art galleries in Detroit. Shows at the Willis Gallery and the Detroit Artist's Market have gone over well.

Sabu sings against child abuse

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Paul Sabu only came with his acoustic guitar. But the heavy metal artist left with a heavy heart.

All Sabu saw were the smiles of children, when he visited the Village of Childhelp U.S.A. in Beaumont, Calif., an 80-bed facility for abused and neglected youth. He got involved.

"I took an acoustic guitar and I ended up playing for an hour," said Sabu, the son of movie star Sabu "The Elephant Boy." "We were playing campfire songs in front of 60 kids that would wrench your heart."

Child abuse has been covered in song by Suzanne Vega ("Luka") and 10,000 Maniacs ("What's A Matter Here?"). Sabu's group Only Child, a four-man heavy metal outfit, has taken the call a step further.

All proceeds and net royalties from the band's recently released single, "Save a Place in Your Heart"

will be donated to Childhelp U.S.A. Money will be used to operate the organization's nationwide child abuse helpline.

To lend further support, Only Child is presenting a series of free concerts, including one Thursday at The Ritz in Roseville.

All of which is designed to bring attention to a problem with estimates that of every case reported four go undetected. And an average of 2 million child abuse incidents are reported a year.

ONE SONG could help. In addition to the single, Only Child is planning a video for "Save a Place in Your Heart."

As child abuse is something that has only recently started to receive attention, so in a sense is Only Child. Sabu, who was raised in California, is on the tip of tongues of most heavy metal fanatics in Great Britain. In his home country, though, Sabu has lived in virtual anonymity.

His 1985 album "Heartbreak" wasn't even released in the United States. With recently formed Only Child, the kudos across the Atlantic have been endless. Kerrang!, a British magazine, gave the band's self-titled debut album on Rampage Records an L rating because they felt the disc was better than its highest KKKKK rating. Another UK magazine, Metal Hammer, called it "the finest album of the year."

Sabu credits radio there for the notoriety.

"European radio is different than it is here," he said. "They either like you or they don't. It's good and it is odd all in the same breath. You find you're on the charts next to 'Perry Como's Greatest Hits.'"

The music offering of Only Child is hard, yet melodic and punchy. Sabu produced the album, of which he is quite proud.

Until Only Child's latest, Sabu's releases have been sporadic. Aside from the "Heartbreak" disc in 1985,

he released an album on the since-defunct Motown Tamara subsidiary Morocco with Kidd Glove.

HE ALSO made, gasp, a disco album in 1979. But Sabu appears to have more than made amends with "Only Child." And word must be getting around.

Sabu was the victim of a rather peculiar burglary. Thieves only took his purple guitar, which is featured on the "Only Child" album cover.

"I died," he said. "I had a Rolex lying around and \$12,000 worth of hi-fi gear."

Perhaps, it was a collector, banking on Sabu's success with Only Child.

"Either that or they just liked the guitar."

Only Child will perform a free concert Thursday at The Ritz, 17580 Frasco, corner of 10th Mile and Gratiot, Roseville. For more information, call 778-8150.



The Bronco Sisters include Jon Briggs of Detroit (left), Rando Dawkins of Detroit, Dan Indreica of Pleasant Ridge, Chris Brown of Birmingham, and Doug Dickson of Drayton Plains and John Kennedy of Detroit.

IN CONCERT

- **IODINE RAINCOATS**
The Iodine Raincoats will perform Tuesday, Aug. 23, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 998-2747.
- **MARTIN WITH THE KITES**
Martin with the Kites will perform on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 998-8555.
- **A.K.-7**
A.K.-7 will perform on Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 24-27, at Jaggers, 3481 Elizabeth Lake Road, Pontiac. For more information, call 681-1700.
- **BRYAN FERRY**
Bryan Ferry will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, at Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester. Tickets are \$20 pavilion and \$15 lawn. For more information, call 377-2010.

So begin the liner notes to the just-released import collection "Blues in the Bottle." The point is that fans of young Dylan — who love that solo guitar and harmonica sound and want more — should look to his peers from the early '60s folk-beat days.

They're here on "Blues in the Bottle." It's a well put-together collection, mixing gutsy blues, ballads and traditional numbers, backed by jangling guitars and the occasional harmonica or autoharp.

The compact disc package is longer than the album version and marks rare appearances on CD by some great folkies like Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Dave Van Ronk and Tom Rush.

While they talk about a resurgence of interest in folk music these days, none of the new folkies — Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers are among the most prominent — have the fire

profits due Rampage Records will be donated to Childhelp U.S.A., a non-profit organization fighting child abuse through prevention, research and treatment. The organization is trying to raise \$750,000 to help operate a national child abuse hotline. The organization needs to raise the money by Sept. 1. A booth will be set up at The Ritz to offer information.

CD

CD

- Here are the top 10 selling compact discs at Musicland in Livonia Mall.
1. "Appetite for Destruction," Guns N' Roses.
 2. "Temple of Low Men," Crowded House.
 3. "Now and Zen," Robert Plant.
 4. "Dirty Dancing Soundtrack," various artists.
 5. "Savage Amusement," Scorpions.
 6. "Out of the Blue," Debbie Gibson.
 7. "Open Up and Say, Ahhh," Poison.
 8. "Tracy Chapman," Tracy Chapman.
 9. "Small World," Royce Lewis and the News.
 10. "Hard Again," Fat Boys.

CHRISTIAN

- Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WNUZ-FM, a Christian music station in Detroit.
1. "His Eye," Steven Curtis Chapman.
 2. "That is What Faith Must Be," Michael Card.
 3. "Coming Back Soon," Randy Stonehill.
 4. "Change Your Nature," BeBe and CeCe Winans.
 5. "Show Them the Light," David and the Giants.
 6. "Did I Forget to Say," Kim Minter.
 7. "Wind of Change," Shella Walsh.
 8. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," Priests.
 9. "All in Favor," Loretta Harris.
 10. "Find Me," Margaret Becker.

REVIEWS

INSTINCT

— Iggy Pop



The first side, the first song, first sound featured on "Instinct" (A&M) is a grinding power chord, of the chain saw variety.

This may be a not-so subtle reminder that Iggy — he never was subtle — is back. Iggy (or Mr. Pop as the New York Times refers to him) never left, but has changed in recent years. He got married and apparently has quit smoking, ingesting drugs and carving his belly with shards of glass while performing.

He is 40 now, with 30 years of recording under his belt. First with The Stooges then on his own, he was at the forefront of the punk movement.

Iggy has carved out his own bit of rock 'n' roll legend, but he has never enjoyed mainstream popularity. His songs aren't often heard on the radio, which is, of course, commercial radio's problem. Though David Bowie forged a bit recently with Iggy's type, "China Girl."

So Iggy has changed, but he seems to be telling us he hasn't mellowed. "Instinct keep's me runnin'..." he sings on the title cut.

On the opening song, "Cold Metal," between the power guitar riffs, he sings, "I'm a product of America/ from the malls to the prisons." There seems to be some homage to Iggy's Detroit roots on this tune: "Rust-buckets in the sky," he sings. Ex-Sex Pistol Steve Jones is back, playing guitar.

But there's not much of Mr. Pop's typical black humor here, no talk of dog food, of being a conservative, of wanting to be your dog. He tells us he is low down in one song and another to have a hole in his heart in another.

But if Iggy is in fact down, he is certainly not out. In the LP's last song, he sings: "You can stuff hamburger in my head/ But I ain't gonna be no squarehead."

— Brian Lysoch

BLUES IN THE BOTTLE

— various artists



"Bob Dylan didn't appear out of a vacuum."

So begin the liner notes to the just-released import collection "Blues in the Bottle." The point is that fans of young Dylan — who love that solo guitar and harmonica sound and want more — should look to his peers from the early '60s folk-beat days.

They're here on "Blues in the Bottle." It's a well put-together collection, mixing gutsy blues, ballads and traditional numbers, backed by jangling guitars and the occasional harmonica or autoharp.

The compact disc package is longer than the album version and marks rare appearances on CD by some great folkies like Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Dave Van Ronk and Tom Rush.

Until they release a Ramblin' Jack Elliott or Van Ronk collection on CD, "Blues in the Bottle" is the best folk-oriented CD available — next to early Dylan.

— Kevin Brown

The Tenement Year

— Pere Ubu

Remember when you have your first taste of beer and your mouth tasted like a camel's armpit and you couldn't understand how anybody drank the stuff? My, how times change.

Pere Ubu are an acquired taste.

Pere Ubu are a love affair. Something to be worked at. Something that is daunting at first, but as you give more of yourself to it, it envelops you, possesses you, haunts you. You don't understand it, but you want more.

It's exciting. It's challenging. It's frustrating.

Life and death? No. It's much more important than that. If you are unfamiliar with Pere Ubu, here's a little history.

Formed in 1975, they released four independent singles that garnered enough attention from major labels to release their first album, "Modern Dance." This LP, along with their second, "Dub Housing," are of such a caliber so as to be ragas you, possess you, haunts you, and is essential listening for any music lover.

Over the next four years, they recorded three more studio LPs, but in the process they exhausted themselves. Accordingly, they stopped working together and pursued indi-



vidual projects.

Allen Ravenstine worked with Red Crayola, Scott Krauss and Tony Maimone founded Home & Garden, and David Thomas fronted a succession of surrealist song and poetry troupes — The Pedestrians and The Wooden Birds.

As the years passed, they found themselves associating more with each other and it became clear that it was time for a revitalization of Pere Ubu.

When you drop the needle on "Something's Gotta Give," the first track, you'll realize quickly that this is not George Michael. Pere Ubu are almost avant-garde. They are the quirky quagmire from which Talking Heads, The Fall and Public Image crawl.

Cover yourself in this LP, let it take your soul, swallow it, love it. You'll be eternally grateful.

— Cormac Wright.