

THE UNCLE PETE COLUMN: NEWS FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Ask any astronomer what it means when the sun crosses the celestial equator as it travels in a southerly direction through the vastness of space and you know what their answer will be? Of course! They'll tell you that means it's time for the October edition of The Uncle Pete Column!

Welcome to the column that dares to ask the question: "Does anybody really read all this stuff?" Well, as Boris Badenov would say, "Sure Mike". I received countless comments on the September U.P.C. and most of them were even favorable. It seems that most people agree on the ineptitude of the music and musical event coverage in that other paper in town. Even better though was the response to my search for tapes of local punk and underground-type music from the early eighties and late seventies. It looks like I will soon have my hands on some long unheard music from **Splitf**, **Democratic Identity**, **Uncle Vinnie and the Surgeons** (no relation) and the rare and legendary **Mr. Jiffy** contest song. If you've been around for a while, you probably recognize these names. If not, let me fill you in on some history.

These bands and many others **Another Red Light**, **Ronald Reagan's Atomic Peril**, **Neon Circus**, **Fresh Fish**, **RBT**, **Genetic Invasion**, **Temporary Insanity**, **The Moths**, **Devastation Masters**, and the **Cuneiform Yunksters** (to name a few) were part of the first major punk/alternative movement in the Binghamton area. They played such places as the Reel To Reel, Dinoz (now The Centerfold), and the ever popular **London Dungeon Night** at The Carlton (now the L.I.E.). The London Dungeon Night was the biggest and longest lasting of the hot punk nightspots in town. Every Monday night, two or more area underground bands would play, often with an accompanying national act. **D.O.A.** and the **Bad Brains** both made their only Binghamton appearances here. **Richard Hell** and the **Voidoids** and German

band **MDK** were also slated to play there but both had to be moved to Beau John's (now the Rathskeller) at the last minute due to scheduling conflicts.

London Dungeon Night was the brainchild of the legendary **Great White Whale** (nee Dick Fuller). The Great White Whale was perhaps the area's first punk DJ and a master at convincing club owners to showcase acts that they normally would have crossed the street to avoid. He started on WHRW when the station itself was just starting up and developed the Great White Whale Show in the early seventies. He was not only one of my favorite DJ's and a good friend, but he was one of the major influences that got me into this radio thing (so you have to place at least some of the blame on him).

The importance of his period on the Binghamton music scene has prompted me to start the development of a local compilation tape of Binghamton's punk history. Work has been slowly progressing over the past few years and it may still take a while before it's done, so stay tuned for more on this.

Enough history for now. There'll be more stories of the early punk scene in future issues. And if anybody knows where the Great White Whale is today, please let me know.

By the way, the fall schedule for WHRW has been completed and program guides will be available by the time you read this. I'm still on Tuesdays from 10 pm to 1 am, but now it's every other week.

Well, the official party celebrating the release of **Moe's Meat Sandwich** (see Matthew White's review in this month's *Caught In The Act* column), the WHRW compilation CD, has just taken place. The festival, unofficially known as Binghampalooza, was held on September 19 under beautiful blue skies on the B.U. campus.

"It was the most exciting thing to hit Binghamton since the measles epidemic", said Rich Relkin,

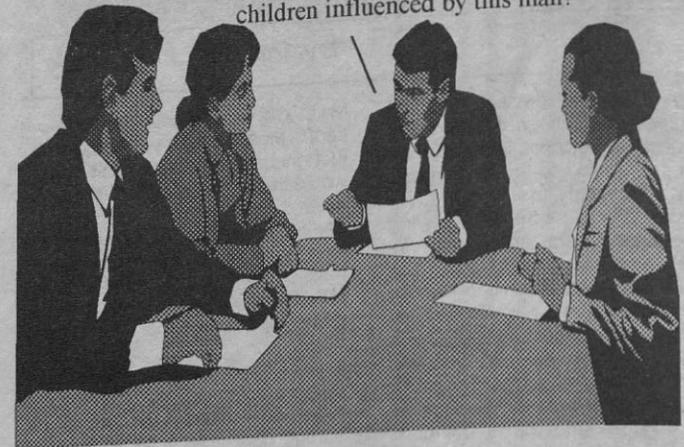
general manager of WHRW and one of the show's organizers. The day featured ten bands, some of who appear on M.M.S. (**Blue Tribe**, **The Acoustically Bent**, **The Kamp-Koza-Van Allen Trio** and **Mr. Clean**) and some bands who just wanted to be festive (**Evil Twin**, **Brick XXXX House**, **Good Cows**, and **The Binghamton Crosbys** among others). Although **The Meat Dept.**, who supplied the bread for Moe's Meat Sandwich, was prepared to play, they were unable to perform as their drummer was out of the country.

There were also tables representing fifteen organizations featuring everything from Binghamton Crew to Slipped Disc to voter registration. The crowd was good, most people floating in and out throughout the day. to paraphrase Jeni Sieperski, entertainment coordinator for OCC and one of the event's organizers, "It's great to plan something for the lazy XXXXX on campus and have them actually respond to it."

Copies of M.M.S. were available at the WHRW table during the show. The CD may be purchased locally at most of the area's independent record stores. Contact WHRW for more info (or more discs).

Concert news: October 17, in the Mandella Room at B.U. — **Sonic Youth** with opening act **The Boredoms**. Tickets are \$12 with student ID and \$15 for the general public. There will be a free show at noon on October 5 featuring **The Silos**. This will be in the East Lounge of the University Union. Future events for the fall season include **Negativeland**, and a rumored show with the **Beastie Boys** (oh boy).

That's it for the first fall installment of the U.P.C. Send in those local tapes, send in that old stuff, listen to the Uncle Pete Show and keep reading The Music Press. And, until next time — have a good one.



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