

Bananarama: WOW!

by Paul Calissi
Bananarama: WOW! (London)
 When you think of **Bananarama** you think of those three lovely ladies from England. You also think of "Cruel Summer" and their remake of "Venus". These two songs have helped **Bananarama** to be a successful band these days, in which bands are here today, gone tomorrow.

Dallin, have hit it big again with their Top 10 Hit "I Heard a Rumor". None of these has a voice you'd confuse with Tina Turner's or Stevie Nicks, but their unison singing covers a lot of sins. The hit single "I Heard a Rumor" is genuinely superb. Some of the other dance-pop tunes, about boy-girl romance, show a little self-awareness by **Bananarama** (how much is hard to say, because the production team consisting of Stock, Aiken, and Waterman set a writing credit with most of every tune).

Bananarama always seemed to have a knack for cover tunes with "Venus", "He Was Really Sayin Something", "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye", and the most recent one, the Supreme's hit "Nathan Jones". The band's second LP, is produced by **Violent Femmes'** Brian Ritchie and Victor DeLorenzo. The beats in certain songs tend to lean on a heavy bass line, numerous keyboards, a violin, and a vocal interaction. The other songs on the album are so-so, nothing

really to write home about. However, the eternal, meditative "Reflections", the Gothic "The Plain", the Left Banke meets Motown "Dear Jane", "Tell Me When" and the savaging of confession "Bless Me", compensate for a few tedious entries like "Pour More Water on Her, George." "Why Are the Farmers Dying" would have been a big hit at Farm Aid. There may be one more hit song off this album but that's very tough to say now. The reason being is because their last two albums have

only produced two hit singles here in the U.S. and abroad, ("Cruel Summer" and "Venus"). "Cruel Summer" helped **Bananarama** become recognized, but their big take off and stardom came from their remake of "Venus". One final note, their new hit single "I Heard a Rumor" can also be found on the movie sound track "Disorderlies" starring the Fat Boys ("Wipe Out" by the Fat Boys, and the Beach Boys is on the same sound track album.)

Paul Calissi is a friend of the Collegian's who lives in Allentown, PA. He has an avid interest in music and is currently employed by Divine Sound as a mobile DJ in Allentown.

"Hey, who sings this song?"

"Hey, who sings this song?"
 "Ummmm...I think it's U2."
 "No kidding? You should let them." Ouch... I always hated that comment. My older sibling, being as sweet and considerate as he is, always caught me with that, every time. I'd be singing my little lungs out, and just when I and myself believing that I was indeed the next Janet Jackson of Madonna, he, of course, would burst my bubble. Thus, after several years of criticism about my less than perfect voice, I took his advice, and left the song to the singer, and learned to lip sync. It's real easy, and you can't really embarrass yourself if

you did happen to goof a line up. Well, that's exactly what the Lip Sync Contest did; it let the artists sing and they went through the motions, giving their interpretations and imitations. It went quite well. Renditions of the Go Go's, Queen and Aretha were just a few groups represented. The first competing band, **Hazardous Material**, brought people wandering wandering into the Wintergreen Cafe for a listen. Joe Vahey, Bill Vahey, Mike Smith, and John Chess, all from Behrend, made up the group who impersonated the group Sabotage and their song "The Power of the

Night." I'm sure you're familiar with this group. What??? You mean you've never heard of them???... Well, then you've been living under the same rock as I have. Just for those very few music-ignorant and uncultured folks like myself, Sabotage is a heavy, heavy metal band. I can't say I'm a head banger, but it was great! They played their role down to the smoky special effects. As the mist rolled down from the stage into the crowd, people started to get interested. Yes, you could say everyone was "choked up" from the performance. OK, it wasn't *that* awesome, but it was entertaining. Entertaining enough to

capture second place. Although one of the guys said that they "weren't here for the money" and all they wanted to do was "an encore," they received \$100 for finishing in second place. **Suspended Animation**, from Edinboro, was the only group competing from another college. They brought their bermudas, shades, and ravishing fans, and did "Vacation" by the Go Gos. Lisa and Wendy Nochnan, Marianne Tomasic, Devvie Cordera, and Edie Grant bopped around to this warm weather (what's that?) tune and brought their own beach ball for the audience to play with. The third place winners, C.C. and the Old A.D.V., used a little originality to do their rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen. They had four midget back-up singers with appendages belonging to other people. It definitely grabbed everyone's attention. The "small" group consisted of Steve McGarvey on the piano, Joe Cunningham as the little lead singer, and Beth Buck, MaryBeth Zawistoski, Orlando Cruz, Gerry Nicks, Matt Savacool, Jamie Grimm, and Alica Gephart combining their efforts as the midgets. What hand-eye coordination.

However, **Harold** was the stand-out man of the evening. Along the same lines as C.C., **Harold** was the coalition of Scott Lewis, Scott Reinhart and Scott Argiro. Together they made a little man with great facial, hand, and body expressions. **Harold** did a medley of songs from various artists. Everything from the Beach Boys to Prince was covered in his (their) performance. It was very creative. Maybe you've heard of these three guys before. At the talent show, they were part of the Beastie Bongers and at the Battle of the Bands, Argiro was a "Rabbit." They took first place at the Lip Sync contest and walked away with \$200! "Anything that comes up, we'll be in, in some way." (I'm sure we'll recognize you.)

They were judged objectively by Matt Farkas, John Downey, Carl Dabbler, Jeff Catalfamao, The "Night Owl" from Jet FM 102, and Mike Sroka. The "Night Owl" was also the master of ceremonies. WBCR's own "Rock-n-Roll" group, entertained the crowd during transition periods.

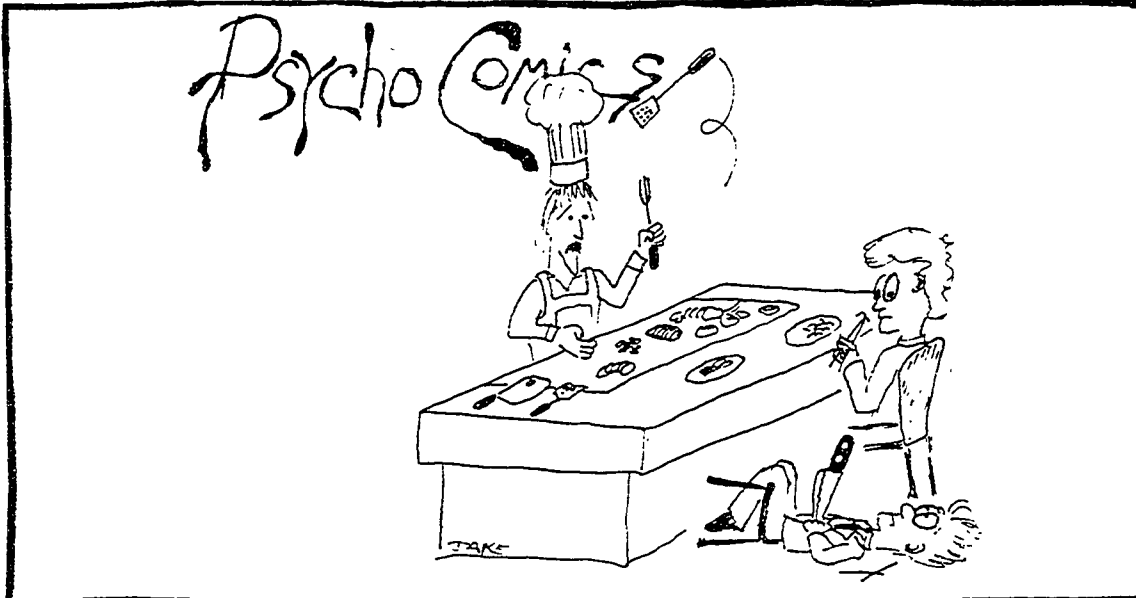
"It went extremely well," said WBCR's general manager, Kirk Stewart. "It certainly extended our expectations. We had not anticipated 250 people to come and watch. I was very pleased, from the turnout in groups and the crowd." The "strictly professional" event was to attract some attention and recognition towards WBCR. It was fun.

ABC

by Paul Calissi
ABC-Alphabet City Record Label: Mercury
ABC's stock in trade is a romantic overstatement that is linked to sophisticated, ultra-slick dance grooves. **ABC** used this when they exploded on the scene in 1982 with their hit "Poison Arrow" and "The Look of Love". **ABC** returned on the music scene in 1985 with their sensational hits "Be Near Me" and "How to Be a Millionaire". **ABC**, now a duo comprised of Martin Fry and Frank White, has an American Top Ten hit with their Motown tribute to Smokey Robinson. Their hit song is called "When Smokey Sings". In my opinion this is their best single on the album **Alphabet City**. The other hit on their album to look for is "The Night You Murdered Love" which is a classy dance funk song. But for **ABC**, concerning their other songs on the album, it's the same old song.



Sandra Dimarzio, Karin Shrum, and Orlando Cruz photo by MaryBeth Zawistoski



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Apathy Busters

by Patty Landry
 How many times have you heard that there is nothing to do at Behrend? How many times have you seen students pack their belongings for the weekend because sitting home with mom and dad is much more exciting? How many times have you been asked how is college life and your response was, "okay, I guess."? Now there is finally something to do about the problem here at Behrend. Become an **Apathy Buster**. It's simple, it's easy, and it's much more exciting. An **Apathy Buster** is one who realizes that there is something to do at Behrend at all times. He combats the problem by looking around (his surroundings) and chooses by alternatives. He realizes also that there is no reason for anyone to say that there is nothing to do at Behrend (because simply that is untrue.) Events happen at Behrend all the time. He has faith in Penn State. The Student Government Association (SGA), along with Student Services, is sponsoring the new concept of **Apathy Busters**. Originated by SGA president, Matt Farkas, **Apathy Busters** started as a joke, but it is quite realistic to some of the students here. It is serious to the point of reaching students to be aware of the problem. Although tangible, it does have a certain

novelty value to it. Steve McGarvey, president of the Commuter Council (CC) said that **Apathy Busters** was created to "raise awareness." He added that "off-campus are the main apathetic people because it is difficult to communicate to them." Perhaps including an **Apathy Buster** character on the Commuter Council newsletter was a subtle hint of the current problem. **Apathy Busters** reminds us of te activities that are always present here. According to Farkas, it will become "SGA's new logo." It is a concept to remember especially now during cold weekends, as well as during the week when one just needs a study break. To name some activities, just in the month of November were a mime, three movie series, comedy and music, the studio theatre play, Pennsylvania dance theatre, Tom Lawless (St. Louis home running World Series hitter), holiday bazaar, etc. There are several activities planned in December in the first few weeks before Christmas and much more after break. Buttons will be made available by next week for **Apathy Busters** that shows an apathetic character. Any questions or concerns should be directed to any SGA senator. SGA used a "backdoor" approach to promote the concept with a small risk and a great return," commented McGarvey. Just don't be caught in the dilemma of having nothing to do at Behrend. If you find yourself in the dilemma, who are you going to call? **Apathy Busters!**

by pecl
 .denial.
 my eyes are growing old with every tired curve of desire's forgotten flesh
 i run them gently down the faces along the forbidden image of yesterday's stolen idols
 counting the years until refusal means forever
 so come follow me up to the bedroom if i take you down if i take you down don't let go
 see these hands have seen too many soft places tonight they cosume
 ...
 in a skeleton state he devours shadow her twisting, contorting falling into the night
 ...
 you let me kiss you where you cry (it was my self inflicted passion)

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