

## Irish sounds visit America Lir is here

Chris McCorkel  
Staff Writer

What is Irish, jams better than Pearl Jam, and makes U2 look like amateurs? It is Lir, and they have come to the United States to make a name for themselves.

I asked Lir's guitarist/songwriter Ronan Byrne to explain some of the differences between the United States and the rest of the world.

"The United States is so much more open-minded, the crowds are so into it."

Lir has been playing the Irish music scene for seven years and has been touring the U.S. for about three months.

I asked Byrne if Lir had a strategy for breaking the U.S. market.

"We're just taking it slow, moving from one area to another getting our name out, getting a following. Coming to America is exciting and daunting at the same time, but the hardest part is being away from home. I miss home, but America's so beautiful, I want to see as much of it as I can."

I found Ronan Byrne to be one of the most positive, charismatic individuals I have ever met. But could they play?

Sitting in Zee's watching Lir start up their performance, I could only think that if this band is not the next big thing, there is no justice in the world.

The band's material is built on contrasts. Lir's songs range from being quiet and mellow to ripping your face off. I have never heard a band mix raw power to melody and taste so well.

The audience at Zee's could not have agreed more.

After Lir finished their show with "New Song," a potential single off the new album, the crowd went nuts, and cheered Lir into doing and encore.

Lir's show was the most fun I have had in a club. These guys are way too good for Harrisburg. They will be playing throughout the area for the next few months, and I strongly urge that everyone check them out.

One might also listen to Lir on their new album entitled *Magico! Magico!* on the What Are Records? label.



LIR members(l-r): Robert Malone, David Hopkins, Ronan Byrne, Craig Hutchinson, David McGuinness.

## Zee's and Mookie's - the places to be

Chris McCorkel  
Staff Writer

Bored? Join the crowd. That is why I have been assigned to investigate what exactly there is to do around here. My question prompted me to two local night spots, Zee's and Mookie's.

Eight-o'clock Friday night I walked into Zee's (located in Camp Hill, exit 19 off Rt. 83) with my friend, Steve, the designated driver for the evening, and found a table. The atmosphere was hip, clean and casual. A friendly waitress came over to take our order. The people were pleasant and the rock band was loud. Next, the nachos test. The nachos took about 15 minutes, but were worth the wait...excellent salsa! Steve was preoccupied by the young women next to us, but being the dedicated journalist, I kept my mind on the review. At least until I tried Zee's mixed drinks. The drinks were so smooth, potent and refreshing that Steve turned his attentions to getting me up the steps on our way out. The whole evening was very enjoyable. If you are looking for a fun, low-key atmosphere to meet nice folks, Zee's is highly recommended.

Before you know it, it is Saturday night. I go into Mookie's (located near Radio Rd. in Elizabethtown), with my trusty friend, Steve, for another review. The atmosphere in Mookie's is about as casual as a nice place could be. If you do not like country music, however, your evening at Mookie's could get a little long. Now for the nachos results. Overall, Mookie's nachos even beat Zee's. The drinks are very affordable and tasty, but after an hour my low country music tolerance was getting the best of me. Basically, I liked Mookie's and it is definitely worth giving a try. If you are a country music fan, Mookie's is the place to be.



## Reviews: Neil Young and Nanci Griffith

Lou DiRienzo  
Staff Writer

*Neil Young and Crazy Horse - Sleeps with Angels*

Neil Young is one of the few artists who appeals to a broad spectrum of music listeners. He has been around long enough to be considered "classic rock", yet he toured with Sonic Youth a few years back.

His style is often eccentric and each album he puts out has a specific mood, ranging from mellow to electric and harsh. Some of his best work has been with his band, Crazy Horse, who he has reunited for his latest album, *Sleeps With Angels*.

This album received such a great review in other publications that I could not wait to listen to it. Maybe the album that those publications were sent to review was different than the one sold to the general public because I was extremely disappointed.

There are a number of good songs and two standouts, "Change Your Mind" and "Driveby", but overall, the album just does not strike me as a knockout.

I recommend this one to die hard Neil Young fans, and possibly to anyone with ex-

cess cash to throw away. There are just too many bands out there with better albums on the shelves. Young seems to release an album every year and a half or so, and maybe it would be better off if he waited longer between releases.

This album has a lot of attitude but lacks musical strength, and a longer period between albums would have given him more time to write the kind of music that has gotten him to this point.

*Nanci Griffith Flyer*

Griffith combines elements of folk, Celtic and country on this album. The fifteen tracks are relaxed and melodic. The artist has plenty of help on this recording from the likes of the Indigo Girls, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton of U2, the Chieftains, and Mark Knopfler. Peter Buck of REM produced two of the album's songs, "Always Will" and "Time of Inconvenience", and his influence can be heard.

Another outstanding song is "Nobody's Angel". This album is an excellent choice for anyone looking for a change of pace or an escape from the harshness of everyday living.

### News and Events

REM's new album will be out on the 27th of September and it sounds like the band is back to its old self after a disappointing last album.

The Best Western in New Cumberland has been bringing in bands on Friday and Saturday nights. On the 24th I checked out Still The Mind Smiles, and I was extremely impressed.

This alternative band has just gone through some revamping and will be playing the local circuit in the upcoming months. I don't have any definite dates yet, but look for them in December at Shakey's in Hershey.

I also got a call from Tuck, who is a member of Bubba, and a student here at PSH. Look for dates for this band as soon as they become available.



### CAPITAL TIMES

Mandatory staff meeting

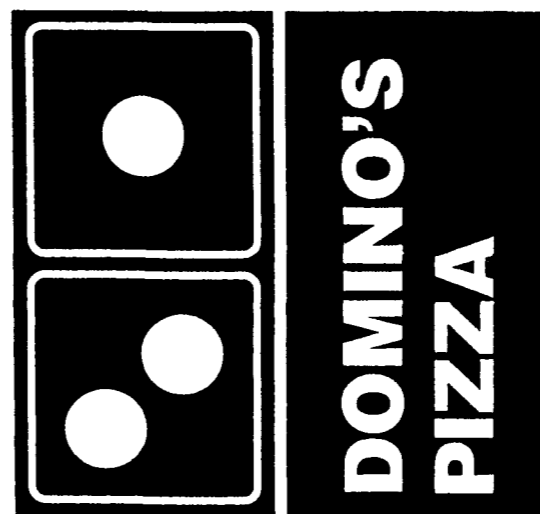
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