

LPs

Sound Affects
The Jam
Polydor PD-1-6315

The dichotomy between British and American musical tastes has rarely been illustrated more clearly than in the case of the Jam. In England, Jam records are frequently at or near the top of the charts, and for the past couple of years guitarist Paul Weller, bassist Bruce Foxton and drummer Rick Buckler have swept the "Best Band" and "Best Album" categories in many English rock polls.

America's a different story. Occasionally a Jam song will make it onto an adventurous FM station's turntable, but most of the time the band might as well not exist for all the attention it gets. *Sound Affects* is the Jam's fifth album; when *Setting Sons*, the fourth effort, was released, at least one area record store advertised it as the Jam's debut.

The Jam is caught in a classic circle: the public won't buy the records because radio stations won't play them, and radio stations won't play the records because no one's buying them. Sadly, there's no reason to

believe that *Sound Affects* will break the pattern.

On the surface, *Sound Affects* shows the Jam in a holding pattern. A closer look, however, indicates some subtle shifts in direction, and some interesting sources of inspiration.

Weller's speech ("It is called indoctrination, and it happens at all levels, but it has nothing to do with equality...") illustrates the influence of a more recent group of politically oriented artists, England's Gang of Four (GOF), who use a similar technique on their own "Anthrax" (on *Entertainment!!*). Weller's obviously been listening to the Gang of Four quite a bit, and his feedback-ridden guitar (not to mention Foxton's martial bass) on "Pretty Green" wouldn't sound out of place on a GOF recording.

Weller's also been listening to his Beatle collection. The central riff of "Start!" is a direct cop from the Fab Four's "Taxman." And then there's the backwards guitar... it was a real innovation when John Lennon recorded a guitar part and then fed it backwards into the mix, but that was more than fifteen years ago. It appears that



Weller's just recently figured out how to do it (you can almost hear him yelling, "Hey, guys, listen to this!") — backwards guitar plays a prominent part in four songs, and it gets a bit irritating after a while.

That's a minor complaint, though. While *Sound Affects* isn't quite up to the standard set by *Setting Sons*, it's still a Jam album, which means that it's head and shoulders above most of the polyvinyl chloride currently occupying the bins at your local record store.

The Jam deserve to be heard. If you're listening for the group on American Top Forty, though, you've got a while to wait.

By Phil Bernstein

Nuke-less sound with Cris, Jackson, Floyd, John

Yeah, I know you know Jackson Browne's coming, but have you been listening closely? Like, did you know there are other performers sharing the stage with that sweet man of autobiographical love-worn sorrow and that it's a No Nukes affair? Appearing on Feb. 23 with Browne are Cris Williamson, Floyd Westerman and John Trudell.

Singer Williamson returns to Eugene for this event. An Olivia Records recording artist, she, like the rest of the group, is cause-oriented. In the past, she has been identified with the women's movement... you'll soon see that everyone here has his or her own cause.

Westerman sings and dances wherever an Indian community in Canada or the United States needs him and he is able to go. Through his songs he shares the Indian problems, needs, hopes and dreams.

Trudell will share a few brief Indian-cause-related comments before Browne takes over the stage with his band (made up of Russ Kunkel, Bob Glaub, Bill Payne, Craig Doerge and Danny Kortchmar).

"The musicians and technicians donating their time and energy for this benefit concert are doing so because they want to see an end to all forms of nuclear madness," so says the press-release.

This is a "Water for Life" concert — the poster is a Georgia "O'Keefe" version of Taurus over water. The idea is to stop Trojan, stop Trident and stop Teledyne.

If I sound somewhat cynical it's probably because I know a lot of the folks who slept under the EMU breezeway Monday night aren't all that cause-oriented, and as has been noted earlier, many didn't even know who was sponsoring the event, or what the cause is.

Needless to say the show will go on, and, for a cause. Don't smoke in Mac Court, carpool, bike or walk to the show, and know that there will be lots of No Nukes information available. — Erzsi De'ak

Theater, song, dance and — entertainment!

Whether in the Valley or on the Coast, you might be able to find something to do in the coming week.

- Check out Aunt Lucy Devine's (1340 Alder St.) throughout the week for music. Tonight Gregory Fields plays from 9 to 11 p.m. jigs-n-jazz; tomorrow night from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. you can hear Kent and Alan do traditional folk numbers; Saturday night Home Cooking (country folk) plays from 9:30 to 12; Sunday Peter Thomas on classical guitar does a matinee performance from noon to 3 p.m.; Monday Robin and Kent perform a bit of folk and bluegrass from 9 to 11 p.m.; Tuesday Cecelia Ostrow and Barney Barbour do "Silvery Originals" from 9 to 11 p.m. and on Wednesday Small Change bring in some English/Irish folk music from 9 to 11 p.m. Aunt Lucy's serves food and drink too.

- If you like dance, you might want to look into the informal studio concert sponsored by the department of dance. Entitled Informal Studio Concert I, the lights shine on Monday night at 7 p.m. in the Dougherty Dance Theatre.

- On Friday night at 9:30 p.m. the Xplorers in their four-piece fashion play good ol' rock-n-roll, rhythm and Blues share the stage with the fifties-style a capella do wop specialist group the Whitetones. Admission is \$3

at the door and \$2.50 for Community Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) members. Call the center for information at 687-2746.

- Saturday at 9 p.m. Vashimba marimba music returns to the WOW Hall (also known as the CCPA). You should be able to dance, dance, dance (etc.). Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$3.50 at the door.

- In Corvallis the theater department of Oregon State University presents Tennessee Williams' drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday night at the Mitchell Playhouse. Curtain is 8:15 p.m. Tickets are available at the Playhouse box office; reservations can be made by calling 754-2784. Tickets are \$4 for the main floor and \$3 for balcony seating.

- Now, to the beautiful Oregon coast... if you get to Cannon Beach you'll be able to buy saltwater taffy and eat it while watching the Northwest Theatre Ballet on stage at the Coaster Theater. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Call 436-1242 for more information.

- Back in Eugene, Percy Hilo returns to the stage for a performance of songs about the West. The concert is free, and will be held at the Lane County Museum (740 W. 13th Ave.) Sunday at 2 p.m. There'll be refreshments provided by the Lane County Historical Society.

"The people want music, we give 'em music" — that's what the man said. Did you get your tickets?

Back to the bench... here we go again... I know you always hear that, but it's true. Every single time Kirk and I try to get this entertainment stuff into the paper all hell breaks loose. Kirk's been screwed over numerous times by the ever-lovin' VDTs. So, now we're all just raggin' — and then, to boot! Hah! You thought you knew pain, then the ad-side says toodles to a real big ad and leaves us with a hole. Life's tough, you know. Then, I know you don't want to hear all this, but it makes us feel better, then big S hangs up on me because the Emerald bitch haunts my voice... so, we just want you to know that we actually do try, here at the Thursday Revue, but we are tired — tired of machines that go beep and consume your masterpiece of journalistic prose without a smidgin of guilt... such is the life up here. For those of you who remember, THURSDAY a week before publication is still the deadline for all entertainment stuff to be in the calendar and the entire section.

Would like to thank Kirk Knighton for rewriting his God piece, Harris for the photo; and would just like to get Gaib to go to bed (alone) for once and get some rest so he can finish all the stories he's promised me. Oh, one more note: THANK YOU SANDY FOR NOT SCOWLING AT ME!!

I know you're tired of my moanings, but now we've reached the end of this hazardous sequence of words. Good night, good day and keep warm, Erzsi.

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The NBC-TV special "Kent State" is partially based on this book. Watch for it in early February.