

ARTS

Catch 'A Flock of Seagulls' live; it's better than on LP

By D.F. WILSON
Staff Writer



Tar Heel/D. F. Wilson

A.F.S. lead guitarist P. Reynolds dons bug-eye glasses ... performs at the Pier in Raleigh

I had a sneaking suspicion that A Flock of Seagulls would be better live than they are on disc.

I was right.

A Flock of Seagulls' (try chanting that in demand for an encore) debut album on Arista has all of that no-nonsense new-wave feel to it, very terse, tight and economic. But terse, tight and economic sounds great at high decibels in a packed bar.

Onstage, A.F.S. is indeed tight, but what the folks heard Monday night at the Pier in Raleigh was not a photo-copy performance of the album. Most of the material performed did come from the album, but it didn't sound like it. It seems that producer Mike Howlett just wasn't able to capture the band's live energy on vinyl.

What he did capture, however, is a sort of "pop-wave" that is holding its own on the airwaves. Interestingly, it is one of the few new new-wave records that has broken onto the playlists of so-called "album oriented" (AOR) radio stations, yet still all they play is one or two cuts.

A.F.S. didn't take the stage until 11:20, but they were off to a hot start pounding out "Modern Love is Automatic" and "Messages." Right away I knew that things were going to sound different than on my home stereo. Besides being much louder, the mix was almost entirely different live.

For instance, lead guitarist P. Reynolds (complete with bug-eye glasses) was much hotter live, while on the LP he is often phased out by production.

One of their new tunes, "I Need a Pick-Me-Up," reinforced my contention that A.F.S. sounds a lot like U-2, both having a steady, pulsing bass and high, echoing guitar

notes. Vocals, though, is where the two bands differ. While U-2's Bono is a wailer, M. Score (it seems that A.F.S. is not on a first-name basis with their listeners; all they give are initials) is a talker. He doesn't so much sing as he pronounces.

One song off the album, "Telecommunication," may well be one of the greatest dance tunes ever performed. And danced to it was. The band even invited several members of the audience onstage. What a sight it was, a bunch of Raleighites pogoing among a group of English wavers.

After a spirited rendering of "I Ran," A.F.S. came back for two encores. Before the last song, "Danger Zone," Score said it should be fun because they were still in the middle of writing it. It turned out to be truly dangerous, for it was full of treacherous stops and turn-arounds through which Score had to lead bassist F. Maudsley. At one point the group fell victim to one of their own time changes. Even with the flaw, though, it was a tune worthy of the final slot, and including it on their follow-up LP would be a wise decision on the part of A Flock of Seagulls.

Opening for A.F.S. was Head Cheese, three girls and a guy from Philadelphia. These kids were weird like the B-52s have never even thought of being. The lead singer wore plastic grapes in her hair and played an electric autoharp. Another girl wore a mutated Batman shirt and a plastic plaid skirt.

They started out a bit slow, but really won the audience with their rhythmic rendering of "Kum ba yah" and their Egyptian/nautical dancing. It was hard to get a fixed hold on the band, though, because except for the lead singer, they all kept switching from bass to drums to keyboards. Keep an ear (and eye) open for Head Cheese.

WORKADAY

By William Canine

ACROSS

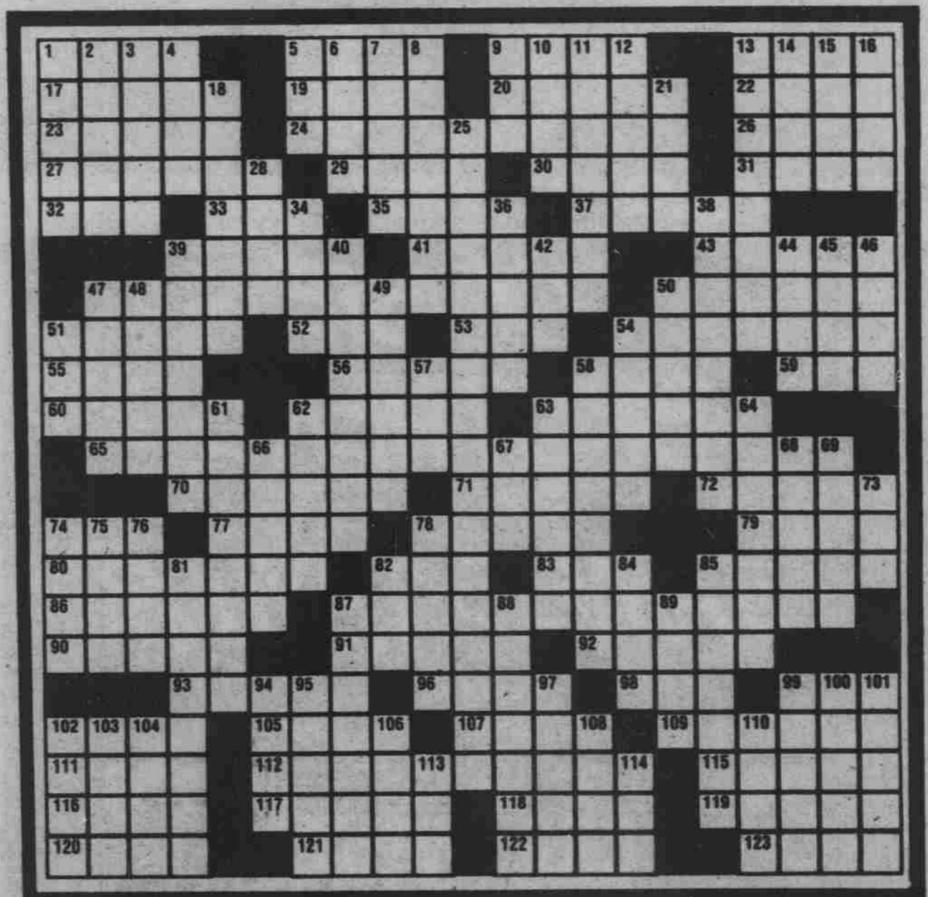
- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Knife | 43 Bankside fisher | 71 Convenient | 98 Upshot |
| 5 "Now is the —" | 47 Job nobody seeks | 72 Urbane | 99 Append |
| 9 Sacred bull of Egypt | 50 Bombard | 74 Eggs | 102 Battery element |
| 13 Poet Sandburg | 51 Greek letter | 77 Trails | 105 Raison d'— |
| 17 Wealthy one | 52 Mili. honor | 78 To come: Fr. | 107 Retain |
| 19 Austen novel | 53 Explosive | 79 Fed | 109 Oom Paul — |
| 20 Treasure | 54 Singer Lynn | 80 Scrutinize over | 111 "The very —!" |
| 22 Locale | 55 After bank or bad | 82 By way of | 112 Post-vacation worker, often |
| 23 Actress Massey | 56 South American monkeys | 83 Long time | 115 Basket grass |
| 24 No place for a vacation | 58 Cleanse | 85 Switch to another track | 116 Little dogs, for short |
| 26 Travois | 59 Intuitive letters | 86 Piggish | 117 Texas town |
| 27 Eva and Juan | 60 City on the Rhone | 87 Vacations, often | 118 Make by working |
| 29 Grate | 62 Novelist Alan | 90 In need of change | 119 Widespread tendencies |
| 30 Bestride | 63 WWI helmet | 91 Northern highway | 120 Opening for coins |
| 31 Pit | 65 Keep one's — hard — | 92 Site of Zaragoza | 121 Portico of old Greece |
| 32 "C" — la guerre" | 70 Conductor's needs | 93 Organic compound | 122 Snicker — |
| 33 Obscure | | 96 — homo | 123 Towel word |
| 35 Nut extract | | | |
| 37 "...MacDonald had —" | | | |
| 39 Dragger | | | |
| 41 Copycat | | | |

DOWN

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Woodcock relative | 25 Result, perhaps, of 85 A | 61 Hides away | 87 Tool for 79 A |
| 2 "— of Hoffman" | 28 Chiffon | 62 Gershwin protagonist | 88 Puts into symbols |
| 3 Come to nothing | 34 Blend | 63 Smaller than Tim | 89 Producer J. Arthur — |
| 4 Sonny the entertainer | 36 "— house is his castle" | 64 Anneal | 94 Ga. or Cal. |
| 5 Sew down an edge | 38 Vacation spots | 66 Lickspittle | 95 Character of a culture |
| 6 A Bradley | 39 Bareheaded | 67 Jogged | 97 Violinist Mischa |
| 7 Eskimo boat | 40 Summarizes | 68 Belgian city | 99 Century plant |
| 8 Pays for one's release | 42 "Es — ein Gott" | 69 Maurice or Linda | 100 Restrain |
| 9 Pretense | 44 Behind time | 73 Tolkien being | 101 Garb |
| 10 Bogle beaters | 45 Newts | 74 Cos. and assns. | 102 Fastens |
| 11 Relief for 25 D | 46 Garner | 75 Heraldic green | 103 Baal |
| 12 Quiverful | 47 Briar | 76 Floating | 104 Remote TV program |
| 13 Soft wool | 48 Greeting | 78 Football's Lombardi | 106 Within: comb. form |
| 14 Singer Guthrie | 49 Metal workers | 81 Send over the airwaves | 108 Be brave |
| 15 Old dance | 50 Second yr. men | 82 Knoxville alum | 110 Beehive state |
| 16 Stow cargo | 51 —la | 84 Slangy negative | 113 Tibetan gazelle |
| 18 Kerchief: var. | 54 Jitterbug dance | 85 Spot for a soup kitchen | 114 Comp. pt. |
| 21 Sicilian volcano | 57 Digit | | |
| | 58 Lines of raked hay | | |

The Weekly Crossword.

Edited by Herb Ettenson



See page 5 for solution