

# BRAVE N

Whether you like it or not, Futurism has finally way you design your home and — most important groups from the movement of the eighties and frequent.

## SOFT CELL

**S**OFT CELL is a nucleus of two people, Marc Almond and Dave Ball, currently based in Leeds. They met three years ago when they were both students at Leeds Polytechnic, and it was through their studies that they came together. Dave studied experimental music, while Marc's subject was performance studies. Both courses allowed them to follow their own direction, which led to them talking about forming what they term as industrial cabaret.

"We did a couple of things, but then I left Leeds for three months and went to live in Nottingham," Marc says. "When I returned to Leeds we decided to form something on a more commercial basis, something which was musically more accessible."

Go to a Soft Cell performance and you'll get a mixture of music, singing dialogues, films and slides (the latter made by Marc and Dave themselves). As Marc says: "We try to bombard people so there's too much for them to take in. Two screens, two people on stage, a neon, 40 minutes of musical suffocation."

The music comes from pre-recorded backing tapes, on which Dave plays synthesiser. Added to the above bonanza, you'll also be shown various American TV ads.

"We wouldn't like to be classed as a cold industrial band, though," Dave points out. "We're not into all that posing in long macs against the Berlin Wall! In fact we've written a song about that called 'Bleak is My Favourite Cliche', which is all about people having their back teeth taken out to make their cheeks sink in."

"Yeah, there's a lot of black humour about us," Marc adds. "We can be really sick. Which is good,

really. We want to keep it raw. We don't have that robot sterility which seems to run through so many bands.

"We're more influenced by watching films than by music, although Sparks have probably had quite an effect on us."

Soft Cell will be appearing at the Planetarium with Naked Lunch on December 9, but they're not into playing gigs "just anywhere" as they put it.

Dave: "We want to play good, decent gigs. We like playing clubs, places where we present ourselves as best as we can. We have a third person working with us called Steve Griffith, who's in charge of the films and projections, but he's leaving next week so we'll be on our own."

So far, only a sampler EP called 'Mutant Moments' on their own Big Frock label is available, but they have signed to Stevo's Some Bizarre Label and a single will be out in January or February. This is likely to be a stage favourite called 'Persuasion.'

"It's really our theme tune," Marc says. "It's all about music in supermarkets. You think it's just cover versions of hits, but underneath it all there are little voices telling you to buy certain products. You don't consciously notice it but it's a form of brainwashing. The song's about an old woman who reaches the check out and notices her trolley's full of stuff she can't afford and doesn't even want."

"It's the last number we do live," Dave puts in. "We never do encores because by the time Marc's finished that, he can't sing any more. His voice is gone and he's emotionally drained."

So, is there anything else you'd like to add, boys?

"Yeah," Marc grins. "We're both from seaside towns — Dave from Blackpool, myself from Southport. That's where our garishness comes from — we're both like a seaside show!" DANIELLA SOAVE



SOFT CELL: "We can be really sick."



NAKED LUNCH: aggressive electronic dance music

## NAKED LUNCH

**N**AKED LUNCH have been in their present form since April of this year, but have been on the go since November of last year. They are: Tony who sings, Cliff on synthesiser, Paul on guitar and synthesiser and Mick on synthesiser and drum machine.

I spoke to Tony and Paul, who told me: "We're an electronic dance band. We're aiming to be a chart band, but the difference between us and say, Spandau Ballet, is basically we're opposed to releasing singles. Most bands of that ilk want to release singles and then go out and play live. We've done it the other way round."

"There's nothing really wrong with Spandau, but I wouldn't really call them electronic dance musicians. They are more into funk dance music. Naked Lunch are better musicians and have far better percussion, which is essential to dance music."

For a band who are always in the papers and futurist charts, it's surprising to discover that you won't find any evidence of Naked Lunch on vinyl, although they are featured on a bootleg cassette. They too, like Soft Cell, have had some dealings with Some Bizarre Label, which is run by self-styled futurist Stevo, who apart from compiling futurist charts, seems to co-ordinate most regional futurist gigs and groups.

In fact, Naked Lunch seem to be more popular in the provinces, even though they are a London based band.

"It's easier to be accepted outside London, especially in Sheffield where it all started," Tony said. "We've done a lot of regional gigs and we've built up quite a

following. I think it's because we're the only group which plays aggressive electronic dance music which is interesting. We're really into primal dance music. When punk became acceptable a lot of the aggression went out of it and it got really monotonous, and the original idea for Naked Lunch arose during that period of lack of interest."

More live gigs are being arranged, with the most prestigious being a multi-bill affair at the London Planetarium on December 9... again organised by Stevo, who claims it will be the best gig of 1980.

"We want certain requirements for our live gigs," Tony explained, "one of which being who's in

control of the mixing desk. We're very fussy about who mixes us. No long haired guys — they mix us like heavy metal bands."

"I wouldn't say we were heavily into fashion, though. We're not that horrible that we'd turn people away from our gigs simply because they weren't wearing the correct clothes. Ideally I'd like people to turn up in suits, but a lot of kids can't afford that, what with a vast proportion of them being unemployed."

"If they want to dress up, fine, but we want them to come to our gigs for fun and escapism. That's what Naked Lunch is all about." DANIELLA SOAVE

## WHERE TO GO — THE CLUBS

THE RECORD MIRROR GUIDE TO THE FUTURIST CLUBS — WHERE TO GO AND WHERE TO BE SEEN!

- LONDON — The Daisy, Charlotte Street. Friday nights. Billy's, Dean Street. Monday nights. Blitz, Great Queen Street. No longer done by Steve Strange, but by a girl called Geno. Tuesday nights. Studio 21, Oxford Street. Saturday nights. Le Kilt, Dean Street. Tuesday nights.
- MANCHESTER — Pips, Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights. Beach Club, Wednesday nights. Mainly for bands.
- LEEDS — Curfew Club, Wednesday nights. Primo's, Saturday nights. Warehouse Club, Monday nights.
- SHEFFIELD — Limit Club, Monday nights.
- RAYLEIGH, ESSEX — Crocs, Saturday night.

There are also a number of clubs about to open, so it's worth keeping your ear open for the following places. LONDON — there's shortly to be a new club in Oxford Street which will play white funk and oriental music. You'll have to dress oriental style to gain admittance. There's also news in the grapevine of a new venue which will resemble a jungle with stuffed monkeys swinging from trapezes! NORWICH Cromwells are looking into the possibility of having a special night, as is RETFORD Porterhouse.

There are also some futurist clubs in WALES, but they are so elite we can't find out where!