

SONG CONTEST '82

Day one reviewed by a Psychedelic Mushroom.
Day two reviewed by Roy Wane.

Although intended to be "back to the roots" (ie audible(!?!))vocals), the Song Contest progressed even further this year with extensive use of synths and saxes. Twenty two groups auditioned this time but these had to be knocked down to ten due to time restrictions. Anyway, off we go....

DAY 1. First on stage were ATOMKRAFT taking the rip out of the Human Leagues and Kraftwerks of this world with the wonderfully entitled song - "Heilmittel in Gegengeschlechtskrankheit" (I think). Their presentation was probably the best on the day and although the song had a tendency to drag on somewhat, it was well put together with skillful keyboard-work and amusing lyrics. Low scoring was probably due to the fact that one of the judges was into electronic music and was slightly (pie -oops!) browned off by the rip-take.

Next up were THE ALL NEW SPURTY BURTY BAND whose original song was censored for fear lest they might corrupt the minds of the young. Thus they decided to call their song "Censored". Jolly music with a nice sax.

Fast following were THE 50 MEN who had brought along quite a strong support. A witty little tune, if not the most complicated to play.

Then Kerrang merchants BIG AMONG SHEEP hit the stage but failed to get the reaction Kranium Krusher received last year. The vocals came across as loud screams so I'm not sure if the lyrics were amusing or not. However, there was one commending point - the extremely competent bass playing by Frankie.

For HONKY'S LAST STAND and PJ9, see second day.

Cabaret today was last year's winners, KRANIUM KRUSHER AND THE METALLIC MEGAWATT MAYHEM MERCHANTS,



with a song containing the chorus "I love Heavy Metal" (Joan Jett heard them practising a few months ago and decided to rip them off by releasing a single entitled "I love Rock & Roll - honest!")

First impression of Day 2 had to be sheer disorganisation including a 15 minute wait, which went on even longer when BUCK RODGERS AND THE I'M NOT REALLY PARANOID BAND decided to tune up on stage. This crowd with "The Laxative Blues" had improved since audition and rehearsal, and they were about the only band to manage an intentional key-change. They'd probably have done much better if they hadn't tried a paralytically boring guitar solo.

Next up were the excellent FALTERED IMAGES who, with "I could be Harry" were musically a very good copy of the originals, particularly the transvestite lead singer whose voice was as piercingly inaccurate and indistinct as Miss Grogan herself. The lyrics turned out to be a funny though completely "in" joke.