

Supporting the Clubs



The Fabulous Thunderbirds

Once upon a trend, there was a band whose music flew in the face of everything fashionable around it. Only out of sheer inspiration did the group manage to persevere, let alone prosper. The band is the **Fabulous Thunderbirds**, and the place is Austin, Texas, seven years ago, circa "cosmic cowboy." In those times, anyone not wearing a Stetson wasn't likely to get the time of day. Now, almost all those yahoo singers are sucking big eggs, and their music sounds as contrived today as it did back then. But the T-birds are doing better than ever, thank you, as anyone with half an ear could have predicted at the beginning. The Thunderbirds play with a spirit firmly planted in the shadow of America's blues giants, and with a relentless style guaranteed to rock the socks off even reluctant listeners. These guys learned their lessons well from the likes of Freddy King and Muddy Waters, then added a modern twist and original songs which let them go way beyond imitation. What this band can do with just a guitar, harmonica, bass and drums is a wonder, which is why the likes of the Rolling Stones, Rockpile, Eric Clapton and even Tom Petty have used them as openers. Expect the Lingerie to be packed to the popping point for their two shows this Saturday. And now that Nick Lowe has publicly stamped his seal of approval by producing their new album, *T-Bird Rhythm*, even the scenieoppers should be there in full force. Look out.

—Bill Bentley

The Fabulous Thunderbirds at Club Lingerie, Sat., Dec. 11.

"Rapping," for the uninitiated, is the pseudo-spontaneous spouting of lyrical messages over instrumental tracks of the popular rhythms of the day. This musical style, as popularized by such groups as Grandmaster Flash, Afrika Bambaata, and, locally, Age of Consent, is the latest stop in a long tradition of spreading the word, be it news, murmurs of social unrest, or whatever information merits passing along. The tradition actually goes as far back as Roman poets and troubadours, spanning the centuries to the folk/protest movement of the '60s. The most prevailing influence on the recent rap scene is the D.J.-style "toasting" rap that emerged from Jamaican reggae clubs in the late '60s. Currently, such toasting talents as Eek-A-Mouse and Yellowman are all the rage, but the granddaddies of them all are U-Roy and Big Youth, and their respective pounding sound systems out in the yard.

Big Youth has managed to weather the many changes in the musical form, due in part to his endearing stage qualities, his lyrical humor and his strong performing image. His concerts now feature much more singing than toasting and, along with the **Arc Angels** (who were once Soul Syndicate), this is one of the stronger reggae bets of the current season.

—John Sutton-Smith

Big Youth with the Arc Angels at the Roxy; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.

The **LeRoy Vinnegar Sextet** will perform two sets of hot, uptempo jazz at the Central Sunday. Performing acoustically, the Sextet plays all the old classics, from "Fly Me to the Moon" to "In a Sentimental Mood." Slinky guest vocalist **Debbie Joyce** has the lazy vocal quality of Billie Holiday. This marks the first in a series of regular Sunday night jazz shows at the Central.

—Pleasant Gehman

LeRoy Vinnegar Sextet with guest vocalist Debbie Joyce at the Central, Sun., Dec. 12.

In 1968 **John Fahey**, scholar, mystic, eccentric and guitar player, took himself some Christmas carols — old songs, from the Old Country — and brought them away down south to Dixie, creating a sort of Gospel According to Mississippi John that came to life as the LP *The New Possibility*. The music contained therein, spare and elemental, reflects the austerity of Fahey's vision of the Yule, a religious vision in which little tin soldiers, errant snowmen and airborne reindeer have no place. "Christmas . . . should be celebrated with all due awe and respect," he wrote, "but not underneath a pagan Christmas tree, or in a department store . . . I seriously doubt if the Son of Man . . . sits on the right hand of Santa Claus." But though Fahey takes his Noel seriously, the tribute he effects is by no means dour — there's great gladness in this music, in its stride, its sway, in the snap of string against wood and the lift of steel sliding up steel. Syncopating for Jesus. It's lovely and American and as clean, crisp and clear as a winter night. No sleigh ride, perhaps, but a walk by the river — quiet, full, and offered up this weekend in a holiday concert chez McCabe's.

—Robert Lloyd

John Fahey, in a Christmas concert, at McCabe's, Sat., Dec. 11.

Other jazz dates we particularly recommend:


- Ruth Price at Carmelo's, Fri., Dec. 10.
- Joe Roccisano at Carmelo's, Mon., Dec. 13.
- Gary Foster at Carmelo's, Tues., Dec. 14.
- Kenny Rankin at Concerts by the Sea, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 10-12.
- John Guerin with Robban Ford at Dino's, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.
- Brian Auger with Search Party at Donte's, Thurs., Dec. 16.
- Ernie Andrews at Jazz Safari, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.
- Al Williams at Jazz Safari, Sun. & Thurs., Dec. 12 & 16.
- Maury Gainen at the Lighthouse, Tues., Dec. 14.
- John Collins at Park at the Top, Tues., Dec. 14.
- Eddie Harris at the Parisian Room, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 10-12.
- Scott Cossu at Pasquale's, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.
- Phil Upchurch at Two Dollar Bill's, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.

Other rock dates we recommend:

- New York Rocker Benefit with The Blasters, Plugz, Flesheaters, Los Lobos at Perkins Palace, Tues., Dec. 14.
- Rattler Magazine Benefit with Dred Scott, Minutemen, Ivan Roth, Exene plus others at Cathay de Grande, Sun., Dec. 12.
- Bleek Flag, D.O.A., Descendents, Minutemen at Ukrainian Cultural Center, Fri., Dec. 10.
- Bauhaus at the Roxy, Sun.-Tues., Dec. 12-14.
- Smokey Robinson at Rissmiller's, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 10-12.
- Dirk Hamilton at the Sweetwater, Fri., Dec. 10.
- Bonnie Bramlett at the Blue Lagune Saloon, Fri., Dec. 10.
- El Rayo Xmas Party at the Central, Thurs., Dec. 16.
- Way of the West at Madame Wong's West, Wed., Dec. 15.
- Electric Guitars, Brainiacs, Shadow Minstrels plus others at Wong's West, Thurs., Dec. 16.
- Green on Red, Flesheaters, The Point, The Last at the Music Machine, Wed., Dec. 15.
- Fibonacci at the Music Machine, Thurs., Dec. 16.
- Chequered Past, Twisters, Little Girls, Rubber Rodeo at Madame Wong's West, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.
- Kommunity FK at the Lhasa, Sat., Dec. 11.
- Ray Campi and the Rockabilly Rebels at Madame Wong's, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11.

THE ODYSSEY

Your one stop shopping for herbs & accessories



Deering Prep System

Free Herb Sample plus Plastic Hero Bag!

... The ODYSSEY ...

11910 Wilshire Blvd. Between Barrington & Bundy
Open 7 Days Late! 477-2523/4

THE ODYSSEY

Complete Food Additive & Vitamin Shop.



... The ODYSSEY ...

11910 Wilshire Blvd. Between Barrington & Bundy
Open 7 Days Late! 477-2523/4