

# art

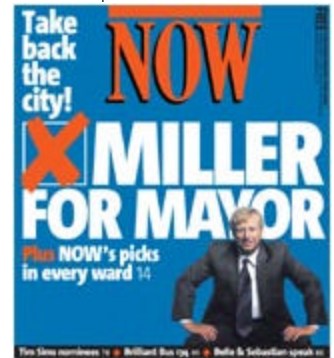
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<a href="#">home</a>	<a href="#">news</a>	<a href="#">music</a>	<a href="#">culture</a>	<a href="#">goods</a>	<a href="#">movies</a>	<a href="#">listings</a>	<a href="#">classifieds</a>	<a href="#">about NOW</a>
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NOW | NOV 6 - 12, 2003



## music feature



VOL. 23 NO. 10

« [PREV STORY](#)  
[NEXT STORY](#) »

### LAST IN MUSIC FEATURE:

[Retro shock!](#)  
 [10-30-2003]



Rough Trade's Carole Pope (left) and Kevan Staples were once considered daring.

### MUSIC THIS WEEK:

#### Music Feature

#### [Belle have a ball](#)

Twee Scottish sweater army polish up their sound

#### Music Feature

#### [Super stoopid](#)

Hardcore twangers return to rock

#### Music Feature

#### [Single horn hijinx](#)

Montreal's Unicorns are sissies who fight back

#### Music Feature

#### [Black like we](#)

Dimmu Borgir go misanthropic

#### Perlich's Picks

#### [Perlich's Picks](#)

A weekly dig through the crates for the stuff you really need to hear

#### T.O. Music Notes

## SPIRIT REVIVAL CFNY'S OLD GUARD RELIVE THEIR 80S GLORY DAYS

BY SARAH LISS

**THE SPIRIT REUNION 2003** with Craig Beesack , Don Berns , Alan Cross , Ivar Hamilton , "Deadly" Hedley Jones , Scot Turner , the Pukka Orchestra , Nash the Slash , the Spoons , Images In Vogue , Martha and the Muffins , the Extras and Carole Pope & Kevan Staples at the Kool Haus (132 Queens Quay East), Wednesday (November 12), \$65.50. 416-870-8000.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE NOW, BUT THERE was a time when the Police, Depeche Mode and Duran Duran were considered too radical for broadcast on commercial radio in Toronto. That's where CFNY 102.1FM came in.

Back when all the other radio stations were playing Styx, Loverboy, Heart, Phil Collins and Toto (Do you hear me, Jack FM?), CFNY was turning then cutting-edge artists like the Talking Heads, the B-52s and Simple Minds, along with CanCon threats like Martha and the

**T.O. Music Notes**

**Live Reviews**

**Cobras' weak bite**

Aggro grrrl punk trio too cool to attack

**Live Reviews**

**Auf her rocker**

**Celebrity Spins**

**RICKIE LEE JONES**

**Hot Tickets**

**Hot Tickets**

This week's must-see shows

**Music Club Spotlight**

**Club Spotlight**

**Vibes**

**Blaze 'n' Jody**

Sizzling soul diva gets Blaze boost

**Pulse**

**Pulse**

My Week in the Clubs

**Vibes**

**Doing it right!**

Launching Toronto's club scene stars

**Disc Reviews**

The Besnard Lakes

THE BLOW

BOTTLE ROCKETS

Fun Lovin' Criminals

Mico

IGGY POP

RAISING THE FAWN

RATSICULE

THE SOUND OF YOUNG

NEW YORK

LYRICS BORN

MR. Roam

PETE ROCK

Zane

DAVID S. WARE STRING

ENSEMBLE

DEF JAMAICA

ECCODECK

LUKE VIBERT

Muffins and the Spoons, into credible pop stars.

It was a programming philosophy governed by the individual tastes of the DJs rather than by focus groups.

"When we were playing all that music, everyone else who wasn't involved kept telling me that nobody wanted to hear it," recalls former director of operations David Marsden, who along with iconic DJ Don "Dr. Trance" Berns dreamed up this Wednesday's Spirit Of Radio Reunion at the Kool Haus.

"Now they tell me it's great. Either they were behind or we were ahead."

Marsden and Berns are just a few of the blast-from-the-past personalities appearing at the 80s nostalgia -fest, which brings together former on-air talent like Ivar Hamilton and reggae host "Deadly" Hedley Jones with period artists including Nash the Slash, Pukka Orchestra, Images in Vogue and the Extras whose tunes fit perfectly with the current back-to-the-80s trend.

The reunion may be timely, but Marsden insists it isn't an opportunistic cash-in, but merely a happy coincidence.

"Everything moves in cycles. Everything we were affected by during that high school period endures. It's related to so many firsts – the first time you got laid, the first time you smoked, your first joint, your first drink. Anything you're attached to during that time remains. And because music can stay in your head and doesn't have to be moved around in a truck, it's even more long-lasting."

He says the reunion was originally intended as a get-together for former staff and talent, but his determination to involve listeners – a mandate he's carried over from his time at CFNY – caused the event to snowball into a large-scale hoedown.

The maverick spirit hasn't left Marsden.

"I'm back on the air now (on The Rock 94.9), and the intent is the same – to do things nobody else is doing. You accomplish that by keeping aware of what's going on around you,

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**Live Music at the Clubs**

- [Thursday, November 6](#)
- [Friday, November 7](#)
- [Saturday, November 8](#)
- [Sunday, November 9](#)
- [Monday, November 10](#)
- [Tuesday, November 11](#)
- [Wednesday, November 12](#)
- [Index of Clubs](#)

**Dance Clubs**

- [Thursday, November 6](#)
- [Friday, November 7](#)
- [Saturday, November 8](#)
- [Sunday, November 9](#)
- [Monday, November 10](#)
- [Tuesday, November 11](#)
- [Wednesday, November 12](#)
- [Index of Dance Clubs](#)

**Music**

- [Concerts This Week](#)
- [Just Announced Concerts](#)
- [Upcoming Concerts](#)

[news](#) | [music](#) | [culture](#) | [the goods](#) | [movies](#) | [listings](#) | [classifieds](#) | [contests](#) | [movie times & reviews](#) | [savage love](#) | [archived back issues](#) | [about NOW](#) | [advertise with us](#) | [careers @ NOW](#) | [privacy policy](#)

having the ability to test the pulse of the city. For me, it's always about being curious. I don't ever wanna be a McPerson." @

[sarahl@nowtoronto.com](mailto:sarahl@nowtoronto.com)

NOW | NOV 6 - 12, 2003 | VOL. 23 NO. 10

[PAGE BACK](#) ▣ [PAGE FORWARD](#) ▣ [PRINTABLE VERSION](#)

**ALSO BY SARAH LISS:**

Single horn hij... \*

\* denotes articles in this issue

**RECENTLY IN MUSIC FEATURE:**

Retro shock!...



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  - [Website Suggestions](#)
  - [General Information](#)

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  - [Concerts](#)
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