The Flip Side

A night out with Georgie and the boys

By Claudia Perry

The road to success for most bands is a difficult one. For every band like Boston, the guitarist respectively, were part of the Boston area for a few years. George from rockabilly to show tunes to rock 'n roll in hopes of moving on to wider recognition.

The bar bands are delighting and deafening people who have played bars at some point. Every band that has received national acclaim from this area and how things are changing.

The road to success for most bands is a roll. Most members have been playing in bands for a few years. George Leh's vocals have power and the Thrillers are an excellent bar band.

Although George in the center of attention on stage, the other members of the band are accomplished musicians who manage to share the spotlight well. Harmonica player Dave Clark is a striking figure. He bends and stretches his tall body, cooing sound from his harmonica that cut through the smoke and conversation in most bars like a knife.

The two guitarists in the band, Steve Jacobs and Steve Selub, complement each other. Selub's stinging leads press even the assimilated with their righteousness for a given song. Jacob's playing resembles Eric Clapton at his best, emphasizing strength rather than taste.

Bassist Richie King and drummer Howie Owen are the Thrillers' rhythm section. Both are good musicians in their own right. They never merely keep the beat, but add personal touches that help to keep the Thrillers from being just another bar band.

Although the Thrillers are an excellent band, there are several external and internal factors that are working against them. The bar scene in Boston is stagnant. Only one club, the Speakeasy in Cambridge, consistently books bands like the Thrillers. The owner is aware of this monopoly, and gives most bands a raw deal.

Another problem is that the Thrillers are still feeling each other out. There is a tenaciousness to their playing that will vanish with time. Their stage presence is slack but they still the Thrillers are on the move. Yesterday's gig with the James Montgomery Band at the Paradise should help them be noticed by people who are influential in the Boston scene. For many bands, a gig at the Paradise is the peak of their career; something to be pasted in a scrap book. Hopefully for the Thrillers it is just a beginning point.

Next: What the radio stations do to help local musicians is not so much as they would like you to believe.