B-52's blitz Philadelphia & the airwaves

The B-52's on Warner Brothers Records BSK-3355.
The B-52's with the Bloodless Pharaohs at The Hot Club, Philadelphia, August 28.

After gaining popularity among new-wavers on the strength of a single ("Rock Lobster") by "52 Girls," the B-52's are clearly on their way to stardom with the release of their first album. Perhaps the best of the artistic (read as "beyond the first album."

The B-52's capabilities as a great dance band were clear as they ripped into "52 Girls," the best rocker on the album. The crowd danced madly, causing the temperature and humidity in the club to start rising noticeably. The band had captured the audience totally at this point, and they continued with a fine version of "6060-842." The next song was an old B-52's number which doesn't appear on the album. "The Devil's in my Car" is a very funny tune about dealing with a bully ("There's static on the radio!") shrinks Schneider) automobile.

The band continued with "Lava" and an exciting version of "Hero Worship." By this time, the heat and humidity were making the club almost unbearable. The audience continued to devour the performance, in spite of the heat and humidity. The band continued with "Car" which lasted until an hour-long set of their ex-

The B-52's appeared last Tuesday at The Hot Club, an expensive and poorly-run club which is, unfortunately, Philadelphia's only genuine new-wave showcase. After waiting outside during a sound check which lasted until 10:30, the crowd of about 250 shouted itself into the tiny club. The Bloodless Pharaohs, a local Philadelphia band, opened with an hour-long set of their exceptionally boring punk-jazz. My relief at seeing the Pharaohs leave the stage was soon replaced by restlessness as I stood in a crowd in front of the stage for over an hour waiting for the B-52's. They finally arrived, and it was worth the wait. The band opened with "Planet Claire," and im-

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