Random record roundup

**Whammy! the B-52's on Warner Brothers Records.**

The B-52's emerged from Athens, GA as the quintessential trash-rock dance band. They combined recycled riffs from sixties party tunes, added minimal newwave instrumentation, and in the process became overnight stars due to the success of "Rock Lobster" and "Dance This Mess Around." Last year they teamed up with David Byrne and his Talking Heads Traveling All-Star Funk Show to make the Merosopian ME, a surprising combination of trash-rock and art-funk that met with little popular success. Undaunted, the B-52's continued their quirky stylistic synthe-sis, adding their newly acquired third world sensibilities to the mix and producing their most exciting record since their 1979 debut. Whammy! represents a division of labor for the B-52's. All the instrumentation is provided by drummer Keith Strickland and guitarist Ricky Wilson, leaving the vocals to Cindy Wilson, Kate Pierson, and Fred Schneider. The players add a sparkling electronic gloss to the music — the majority of the album is carried by a heavy synth pulse — while retaining their old surf music chops, especially Keith's biting guitar flourishes. The vocalists, freed of their instrumental fetters, turn in an energetic performance full of shimmering harmonies and clever interplay. Whammy! is easily the band's most consistent record, containing very little filler and only two weak tunes, the instrumental "Work That Skirt" and the cover of Yoko Ono's "Don't Worry." Side one packs four potential hits in a row: "Legal Tender," a synth-driven ode to counterfeiting; the hard-rocking "Whammy Kiss," and Fred's rap about his favorite food, "Butterhead" ("Pass me a plate full, I'll be grateful"). The side's standout — and winner of the Silly Song on This Record Award — is "Song for a Future Generation," in which the band aspires to be Ruler of the Galaxy.

**Whammy! on Warner Brothers Records.**

First Lady of Infinity, and Captain of the Enterprise, replete with spacey sound effects, cheesy organs and singalong "la la" choruses. Side two doesn't fare nearly as well, due to the aforementioned weak cuts, but it does lead off with a real gem, "Trism," the perfect meeting of old and new B-52's styles. They B-52's have proved their ability to survive changes in trend, remaining the most vital dance band from Athens. Whammy! brings them one step closer to their perfect pop album. Ask them, they'll tell you "I'll be great to rollerskate to, and its super-bad." —David Shaw

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**On the town**

Boston Stage Productions will present the world premiere of a new translation of Molière's The Miser, opening 15 June and playing through 16 July at the Boston Shakespeare Theatre on 52 St. Botolph St., Boston. Call 267-5600 for ticket information.

**Arts**

27 Boston Artists working in painting, sculpture, photography and video will display their works in Part II of Boston: Now at the Institute of Contemporary Art, on 995 Boylston St., beginning 15 June and continuing through 14 August.

Artsfest '83, a festival of arts to end hunger, will feature music performances, workshops, exhibits, and open studio viewings between 17 and 26 June. The events will take place all around Boston. For more information and tickets, call 576-2360.

**publication schedule summer 1983**

**Summer issues:** Thursday, July 7
Tuesday, July 12
Tuesday, August 16

**Orientation week:** Friday, September 2
Tuesday, September 6
Friday, September 9

*The Tech* will continue regular publication on the first day of classes, September 13, 1983.

Continuous news service since 1881.

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**The MIT Musical Theatre Guild is proud to announce**

**Auditions: Robber Bridegroom**

Tuesday, July 12
Wednesday, July 13
4th floor of the Student Center
Please bring a prepared song.
For further information call 253-6294.