MIT parties over Spring Weekend with original Squeeze

SQUEEZE
The MIT Spring Weekend Concert.
At the New Athletic Center, May 1.

By JULIAN WEST

I USED TO THINK THAT SQUEEZE was one of my pet bands. According to my theory, no one else remembered them, but I had fond high school memories. "Cool Coffee in Bed" came out about the same time I did, and it was a must play at all our grad parties. But Squeeze dropped out of sight and out of mind. I was out of touch in 1983, and never bought "Cosi Fan Tutti Frutti," which was supposedly a comeback album. I liked the title, but rumor had it that the "new Squeeze" was run up to the "old Squeeze".

As time went by, my copy of "East Side Story" was consigned to a shelf. Old memories became tinged with unreality, and I wondered whether Squeeze wasn't something I had dreamed about.

The announcement that Squeeze - the same old Squeeze - was to play Spring Weekend dispelled that notion. Out of the woodwork came hundreds of Squeeze fans. The Student Center Committee sold 1,000 tickets, mostly to people as happy as I was that Squeeze had pulled themselves together again.

Squeeze promised us "a big, frenzied evening." Friday night, and the band delivered. They went with a very standard approach and basic guitar-bass-keyboards instrumentation, to nobody's disappointment although an accordion did appear on stage for a while.

Chris Difford, who sang lead vocals on many songs, could be accused of vocal harshness, but it is his natural voice. Glenn Tilbrook was singing nicely, but many could not tell for dancing and singing along. In any case, most of the best songs, such as "Take Me I'm Yours," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Cool Coffee in Bed" of epic duration, preceded by hyperbolic introductions of the band members and building to a giddy mood setter, and suggested that Squeeze had cunningly assembled their program.

They played a lot of old stuff, didn't they? Just for the record, there were only two tracks on the 1982 "Singles" compilation which they missed. But there were a few new songs strategically placed, and these went over well. If people did not stop to dance to them, they cheered more than politely afterwards.

The new songs will be released on an album in July. The album is supposedly untitled at this point, but if the paradigmas in any indication, it has something to do with an omnibus.

In any case, the three-week mini-tour of New England was designed not to promote the album but to help Squeeze find their footing. By the end of the set, there was no doubt of this - rather than slowing down, they built up all night long to "Is That Love?" (which, however, was a little slow) and "Cool Coffee in Bed," which, I believe, was released in 1980 after "Argy Bargy" and returned for "Cool Fan Tutti Frutti." Seeing him on stage, it was hard to imagine how they got on without him. He seemed such a typical Squeeze member, falling away at the keyboard and grinning at the audience. He had one or two chances to shine also, such as when he sang "Your Love." Ania, one of the new members, Gibson Lavis was in good form, and provided a steady tempo on drums.

Much of the material dated from the turn of the decade, such as the opening number, "Anne Get Your Gun." A song about a rock star made a nice choice for a mood setter, and suggested that Squeeze had cunningly assembled their program.

As the group returned for an encore on Friday, May 8 in Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street. The student of American clarinet virtuoso Mitchell Lurie, Steven Kanoff, clarinet

The student of American clarinet virtuoso Mitchell Lurie, Steven Kanoff gives one virtuoso recital as part of the Pro Musica series, managed by the Wang Celebrity Series, at 8 pm on Friday, May 8 in Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street. Free to MIT students.

Tickets will be sold by the Technology Community Association, W2C-450 in the Student Center.