

San Jose Mercury News

MARCH 25-31, 1994

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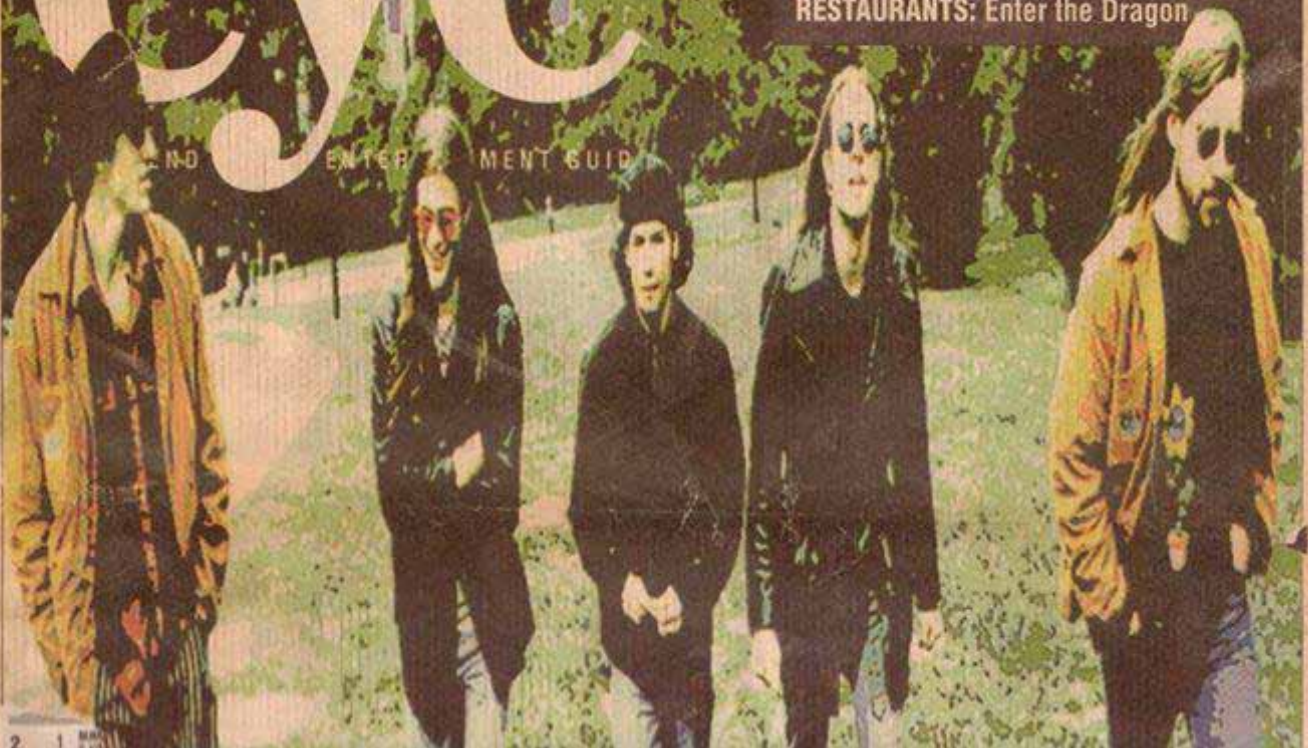
AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MOVIES: Lemmon's zest

■ Victims of the press

MUSIC: The jig is up

RESTAURANTS: Enter the Dragon



2 1 MAR 1994

MUSIC

SOUNDSCAN REPORT

BAY AREA'S HOT ALBUMS

RANK	WEEKS ON CHART	ALBUM
1	4	ALBUQUERQUE AND EVERYTHING AFTER CONTRAST RECORDS
2	2	SUPERHUMAN SOUNDATION
3	11	LIVE AT THE ACAPULCO THEATRE
4	5	MUSIC BOX UNWINDING
5	6	TOM BRADY TOM BRADY
6	13	CRISIS OF CHANGES MCA
7	16	"REALITY BITES" SOUNDTRACK WARNER BROS.
8	8	COLOR OF MY LOVE CLINE DON
9	3	12 PLAY RASCALLY
10	1	SIGN ACE OF BASE
11	47	CHART RESTRUCTURING
12	12	DOWNWARD SPIRAL THE BECKFOLDS
13	9	DOUBTS DOUBTS
15	17	THE HONOLULU THE HONOLULU

BAY AREA'S HOT SINGLES

RANK	WEEKS ON CHART	SINGLE
1	30	HOW TO ROLL MCA/RECORDS
2	1	BLIMP A. J. JAY
3	5	WITHOUT YOU UNWINDING
4	35	SOMETHING TO RIDE TO CONCORD RECORDS
5	6	POWER OF LOVE CLINE DON
6	15	PLAYER'S BALL OUTRAGE
7	10	CANTALOUPE JAY
8	29	YOU KNOW HOW WE DO IT K2 CLUB
9	2	SIGN ACE OF BASE
10	6	ONE & JUNE DOUBTS
11	12	MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD THE BECKFOLDS
12	3	WHYTA MAN JAY
13	7	SO MUCH IN LOVE A. J. JAY
14	67	BABY I LOVE YOUR WAY THE BECKFOLDS
15	43	HEY DJ LIGHTS OF SHINE

Albums: one on chart
©1993 SoundScan Inc. Distributed by L.A. Times
SoundScan: Weekly chart compiled from sales of 300
five retail outlets.

Guitarist Rogers Stevens, front, says he and his Blind Melon bandmates weren't surprised by their sudden success: "We didn't run outside and hug and cry."



MTV and a dancing bee-girl made

Blind Melon a star. It's not sane

BY HARRY SHIRALL
Memory Times Music Writer

IN 1993, Blind Melon became one of the biggest rock groups in the country.

Its debut album rampaged the charts and sold more than 2 million copies. Recently, the group was nominated for two Grammy awards — one in the prestigious best new artist category, the other for rock performance (duo or group). Now the band is out on its first headlining tour. It comes to the Warfield in San Francisco on Saturday.

"We're just here mucking up whatever pearls the (music) industry has to offer us," says the group's guitarist, Rogers Stevens.

There have been plenty of pearls. But Stevens acknowledges that the band has had some help along the way.

"We did the album; it's all our fault," he says with a laugh. "We like it. We think we made a good album. But there were other factors involved in its success."

One of those would be MTV. When the album "Blind Melon" was released in September 1992, it languished on the charts. But nine months later, when MTV began airing a video for the song "No Rain," the album began to rise. At one point, it was selling more

than 100,000 copies per week and it eventually hit No. 3 on the Billboard album chart.

Suddenly Blind Melon — which had taken its name from what the bassist's father used to call a no-account neighbor — was big news.

The video, in fact, became a visual signature of the group. Based on the album's cover — which pictures drummer Glen Graham's sister, Georgia, in a bee-girl costume from a school

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Blind Melon

Where: The Warfield, 962 Market St., San Francisco

When: 8 p.m. Saturday

Tickets: \$15.50 (415) 775-7722

The buzz over Blind Melon

Sudden success made life pretty strange for five individualists

■ BLIND MELON

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play — the video featured 10-year-old actress Heather DeLoach, in bee-garb and cavorting about to the group's loopy and loopy music.

The group appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. The American Music Awards got into the act, offering two nominations (favorite new artist in both pop-rock and metal categories). The video of "No Rain" hit No. 2 on MTV's annual end-of-the-year Top 100 Countdown.

"I don't think we were surprised (by the success)," says Stevens, 24. "We didn't run outside and hug and cry. We realized we were the same (people) we always were."

"But I don't think we expected all the (hassle) that was also involved."

No pretenses

Hassle? Stevens refers to "the mechanism" of success in today's music business.

"The record was successful because MTV played the video so much," he says. "That is a fact, and we make no pretense about it, and we have no problem with it."

But.

"But MTV is a monopoly. It should be deregulated," he says. "It's not such a bad thing, particularly for people in small towns; it's a way to get the music to them. And there's nothing bad about the idea of making a short film (a video) about a song. But it (success) really comes down to getting the airplay on MTV and having a record on the shelf (at stores)."

Stevens says he and the group also had problems dealing with record companies. "They really try to manipulate people," he says. "Record companies still rip artists off."

"There's all these tentacles of a major corporation that you have to deal with. We go out on tour and see these hokey posters of ourselves and we had nothing to do with them. (Record company) people listen to our tapes and



Bee-movie: One cute video, and Blind Melon's a hit. From left: Shannon Hoon, Glen Graham, Christopher Thorn, Rogers Stevens, Brad Smith.

to making music.

"There is an underlying message to our music," Stevens says. "It's about freedom to do what you want to do and the way you want to do it."

That's easy to hear in the music on "Blind Melon," which goes against the minimalism of the moment. The songs teem with melodies, '60s inflected jams and instrumental forays. On songs such as "Soak the Sin," the group delves into the storming rock of Led Zeppelin, with vocalist Shannon Hoon wailing away with a blues-tinged passion. On others, such as "No Rain," there's a win-

string instrument, played by Usted Sabbi Kahn.

As successful as "Blind Melon" was, it did not necessarily please Stevens. "The songs were good," he says, "but the recording and the performances weren't as good as we wanted."

To change that — and to please its record company, Capitol, which has been clamoring for "new product" — Blind Melon will be recording an EP in the coming weeks.

"We're going to record it in a hotel room when we get to St. Louis on our tour," Stevens says. "We want to get a live feel to it