

Something for the Weekend

BY CHRIS SWEENEY

We vent our anger through the music

PUNK boys Max Raptor are fuming with anger and don't plan on EVER calming down.

The band reckon they churn out every song driven by pure frustration and burning anger. Frontman Wil Ray said: "We hate writing about nothing. When we first started out we weren't angry as there was nothing really of huge importance. "But now, being older and experiencing things, all these influences come through. "We have melody and chants in the songs, but there's a strong message behind the tunes – it could be subjects like domestic abuse, but these things happen in life. "Not many bands write about them or are genuinely angry about the state of the state – but we are and that's all we write about. "I'm laid-back in the day but when night comes, my way of venting my anger is through music – it definitely comes across. "A lot of people don't talk about things and it gets pent up. That's one of the problems today – people don't voice their opinions. "But it's happening gradually, people are on the streets protesting and our gigs are another platform for people to vent their anger. And any Scots rebels can do just that next

month – when Max Raptor hit Glasgow's King Tut's on May 19, then The Tunnels in Aberdeen the following night. They'll be blasting out their debut mini-album Portraits – which covers everything from politics to celebrity culture. But while it's an angry atmosphere, the Burton-on-Trent boys keep a lid on things. Wil, 25, explained: "The shows aren't aggressive, but there can be a few injuries. Last week one guy ended up with a broken arm. I don't endorse that, but it's collateral damage.

Throats

"At the shows, we all have a celebration of our problems. We never wanted to be too preachy. The songs are more commentaries of us watching these events unfold – we never wanted to shove it down people's throats. "Our mini-album is a nice little chronicle about the current state of affairs in this country." Wil added: "It will

never, ever stop – as soon as I understand something, I get disillusioned by something else. You're constantly feeling it – this country always has loads of stuff to write about and it's right in front of us all. "I don't think the day will ever come when I write about picnics or girls I met on holiday, no way."

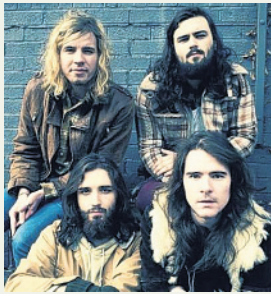
Max Raptor recently toured the UK with The Stranglers and Wil was left with a bizarre legacy – the **WEIRDEST** pre-gig ritual in rock 'n' roll.

He explained: "On the first night of the tour, our sound guy Tim shook everyone in the band's hand – and the gig went really well. "So the next night I told him he needed to do it again.

"He said he didn't have time, but I made him do it at every gig, then I had to find a hot tap and run my hand underneath it for a few seconds.

"Now I do that at every show, it's horrible but I'm quite superstitious. If I don't follow my routine, then there's impending doom in the air – so it has to be done."

Download Portraits now at maxraptor.co.uk



KASS ARE DRUNK ON SUCCESS

By CHRIS SWEENEY

YOUNG guns Kassidy admit they've been on the lash all through their sold-out UK tour. The Glasgow boys have just wrapped up the trip and it's been a 24-hour booze frenzy. Even when their tour manager has cracked the whip, they've still not toned it down.

Barrie-James O'Neill said: "We're a big drinking band and we like to have a good time – we don't want to sap the fun out of it. "We don't like to be in bed for 10 o'clock. If it's bed for 10, then we'll escape out the window and down the pub. "Sometimes we're told, "Take your vitamins and get your a***s to bed". But f*** that, we're young boys.

"We like to have a good time before the show, during the show and after the show." But despite the non-stop partying, the band – who're also Hamish Fingland, Lewis Andrew and Chris Potter – have delivered on stage, showcasing debut album Hope St.

The rave reviews sold out EVERY ticket – including 1,500 punters packed into last night's homecoming show at Glasgow's ABC – with their profile now big all over the UK. Barrie, 23, said: "We've been very, very surprised. "There's more and more people coming out to see us – even in London this week, it was packed out and they all knew the songs. We've got very passionate fans."

The boys currently have a blank slate for the summer – but they're open to any offers, no matter how small. Barrie added: "If people invite us to things, we'll show up and play – we'll take our music anywhere no matter if it's on the smallest island."

BY TOM CHURCHILL



PRESSURE'S ON FOR HAWTIN

1 PRESSURE @ The Arches, Glasgow, Sunday: It's a big one for the techno fans as superstar Richie Hawtin, pictured, makes a long-overdue return to Scotland.

As well as being one of the scene's most influential producers in his Plastikman and FUSE guises, he's the most forward-thinking DJ on the circuit, using custom hardware and software to sculpt his club-quaking soundscapes.

In the meantime, the Numbers crew take over the same venue tonight with Berlin giants Modeselektor and Siriusmo joining Jackmaster and Spencer.

2 FELIX DA HOUSECAT @ Snafu, Aberdeen, Sunday: The Chicago house legend and ambassador for the electroclash sound – hits the Granite City. He always rocks the party and this is sure to be a roadblock.

3 DAY OF REST @ Hawke & Hunter,

Edinburgh, Sunday: Huge all-day bash featuring the cream of house and disco talent from the capital and beyond. Riva Starr, Retro/Grade, The Revenge and Spencer Parker are just a handful of the stars playing across three spaces, including an outside BBQ zone.

4 ALEXANDER ROBOTNIK @ La Cheetah, Glasgow, tomorrow: He rocked the club scene in 1983 with electro-disco stormer Problems d'Amour, and he's still going strong. The Italian – real name Maurizio Dami – is also playing live at the city's Rubadub record shop at 4pm, to whet your appetite.

5 TRONICSOLE @ Admiral, Glasgow, tomorrow: Milton Jackson and Hiro team up for a Return Of The House Nerds bash. Expect classic house from the 80s to the 00s. Email your news and listings to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk

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TAKING A FRESH APPROACH

By EMMA JACKSON

TAKING Back Sunday have been around for over a decade, but claim their new self-titled album won't be a rehash of the sound that got them major success – because that's what tore them apart.

The pop rockers from Amityville, New York, first formed in 1999 but when the guys hit it big in 2002 with debut album Tell All Your Friends, bass player Shaun Cooper and guitarist John Nolan decided that the pressure of their fame was too much to handle.

Shaun, 30, said: "Basically what happened was we got too big too fast. First of all, I just wasn't prepared for that, so I was kinda freaked out by the whole thing. There was a lot of fighting going on in the band because we were all losing our minds and everyone was drinking too much. "I didn't know how to go from a 20-year-old kid to being this guy in a really successful band. That was a whole shock to my system – I really felt I had to take a step back and figure it out.

"I had a few years to tour on a much smaller level. I had it easy for a good couple of years and now I want that fast-paced life, the heavy touring – the Taking Back Sunday way of life. "We released teaser single El Paso a few



weeks ago and we've seen mostly positive feedback, but there are people who don't get it and who want to see us rehash Tell All Your Friends. "We love that record and the songs on it, but that's not who we are any more. We are so proud of that and will continue to play these songs live."

John and Shaun don't regret leaving frontman Adam Lazzara, rhythm guitarist Eddie Reyes and drummer Mark O'Connell. Instead, they see it as a good thing.

Shaun said: "Being apart from the guys made

me learn to appreciate what every member of the band brought to the table and how important every single member is.

"Without a doubt, everything was for the best – if we hadn't changed, we wouldn't have got back to this incredible place we are at in 2011."

That includes the new album out in June and a UK tour next month, which includes a gig at Glasgow's ABC on May 16.

Tour

Shaun added: "We decided to make this album self-titled because we feel this is the definitive Taking Back Sunday sound. And with the five of us being back together again, it just felt right to call it after the band.

"There are some good pop songs on it, there's some up-tempo songs and at the end there is this really great ballad. It's just breathtaking." He added: "We can't wait to get back over to the UK and tour. With the drinking age being that bit lower in the UK compared to the US, it makes for a much more fun-loving audience."

New single Faith (When I Let You Down) is available from May 2 with their album due for release on June 25. Taking Back Sunday play Glasgow's ABC on May 16. Tickets, priced £16.50, from gigsinscotland.com/0844 499 9990.

BY JIM GELLATLY

NEW MUSIC

ACE CITY RACERS

WHO: James Barker (guitar/vocals), Mark Daniels (bass/vocals) and Matt Green (drums/vocals)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Blur, Buzzcocks, Bis

JIM SAYS: If you're still mourning the demise of Britpop, this indie trio are the antidote. They formed from the ashes of Glasgow favourites Juno!, who regularly collaborated with Bis star Manda Rin. Another high-profile fan is legendary producer Stephen Street, whose work with Blur is certainly a major influence on the band. He

heard their demo and immediately got to work with them in London's Strongroom Studio.

But it's not all retro with these guys as they've been inspired by The Vaccines and Brother, who they supported at King Tut's.

Mark said: "We want to write an album kids will listen to from start to finish – just like Blur did when we were kids." **MORE:** facebook.com/acecityracers

● **Hear Jim's new radio show In:Demand Uncut, Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. See jimgellatly.com**



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