At the interview were; MARCUS kinger, part-songuritor, lead guitarist), C.J. (bass), occasionally NICK (songwriter, sort of lead-guitarist) and SIMON (technician) MOGGINS, the drummer, wasn't.

Midnight & the Lemon Boys have got a history and a half, so let's get it over with... IN THE BEGINNING (Feb 1980), Nick and Marc invited Simon down to invest a lot of money in the band. Simon readily agreed and soon the group were to be found gigging around, mainly with The Golinski Brothers. An agent happened to be at one of these gigs and, liking the band, he got them some gigs around London. Interest built up because of these gigs and soon the band got a manager, who also happened to manage The Photos. Due to the connection Midnight & The Lemon Boys went on tour with The Photos around the country, going as far north as Scarborough, as far west as Bristol and as far east as Moulscoomb. Two national tours with U2 were to follow, the second finishing at Jenkinsons in Brighton. Being of a similar musical style the reception at most of the U2 gigs was enthusiastic, come to that the receptions on The Photos tour were pretty good as well. A headlining tour of London was arranged after this, but was fated to be unsuccessful, cos they werent well known and attendances were low.

NDNIGHT+THE LEMONBOYS-MIDNIGHT+THELEMONBOYS-MIDNIGHT+THE LEMON BOYS-MIDNIGHT

Simon takes up the yarn ...

...we got offered a deal by CBS last year, when we were doing all these gigs with U2, and it got to the stage of lawyers looking at contracts which is just about prior to signing. Anyway, we did a gig at Dingwalls with Altered Images supporting, who'd just come off the Siouxsie + The Banshees tour, and CBS came down and saw Altered Images...

CJ: They also saw we were pissed as farts...

S: ...and they gave our deal to them, lock, stock and barrel.

CJ: The reason they gave was that they didn't think the band was 'mature'

MARCUS: We were a totally different band then.

Q: Its a pity that you couldnt bring out a record just when you were

M: The thing is that we should have brought a record out then but we were so sure that we were going to get a big deal that we thought, save it, you

Q: Have you got the money to bring out a record?

S: Yes, we've got the financial backing now. Last year we spent almost £5,000 - that's just on touring, food & hotels.

MIDNIGHT + THE LEMON BOYS .. 2

MARCUS; We were really busy. (They did 94 gigs last year)

SIMON; We bought a van and a load of gear, but we still lost about £2,000.

Q; What about the money side of it?(profit etc.)

SIMON; Making money isn't a sin...ripping people off is.

MARCUS; As far as money goes I'd like to think I'm pretty realistic about it now. I might have been different a year ago, I might have said 'We're the kids, we'd really like to do gigs free,' but after seeing it a bit more, it is a business like everything else. I mean as far as the band goes, you write your songs and you really believe in what you're doing you're doing what you want to do and you're making as much money as possible-that's great- that's what it should be like. But I mean take that Cinescene gig where the tickets were really expensive, there was no bar and you couldn't even smoke downstairs - that is what I call a rip-off and we were almost going to pull out of that, but unfort-unately people had bought tickets so we thought it would be even worse to pull out. It all comes down to what we're in it for - we're in it doing the best we can, and doing what we believe in, and certainly making money out of it.

Q; Are you at all wary of signing with a major label ?

MARCUS; Never used to be ... take an example. CBS, they're a very big company and you get a lot of money from them, but they're just a total machine, like most big record com-panies. Take the Photos, they're just an out and out pop band, but the thing that's happened to them now is that because they haven't been able to sell records, because they're with a major company, they can't change. A big record company doesn't give you the leewsy to take a few risks and change and maybe experiment and go into something else. What's happened now with the Photos is that CBS have got so much pressure on them that they won't let them change. In other words CBS are just saying if you can't sell records...fuck off. But now they might leave CBS and go down to a smaller label. Although that won't mean so much money, it'll mean a lot more creative control. So the point I'm making is I think it's better in the long run, unless you're really sure about what you're doing and you know you're going to sell, to go with a smaller company and use that to experiment and to see what sells records, and know what you're doing, and then maybe go up to a major label.

Q; Have you actually done any recording that you could release? CJ; Not that we're happy about.

MARCUS; The thing is that in a studio we'd like to be a little bit more experimental.

SIMON; All the stuff that we've done is of a quality that could be released...a lot of it's on 24 track.

CJ; It would be acceptable to a lot of people, but it's not acceptable to us.

SIMON; With 24 tracks you get a very clinical feel to it, it comes out a bit too clean and a bit too contrived, it doesn't sound very natural, I don't think.

CJ; All these people that have 'produced' these tapes that we've done have gone for big production whereas we'd really like to get it down to a minimum - a live sound.

END OF PART ONE (part two's a lot more interesting)

Midnight + the Lemon Boys ART

MARCUS; The last 9 months has been really quiet for us... SIMON; Nick slipped a disc before Christmas and he's been having treatment for it up the hospital ... traction ...

NICK; Yeah traction ...

SIMON; It's serious because it takes a long time to get better, so we thought we could do it as a three-piece, but that wasn't really practical, so we decided to get a stand-in and we thought the best person would be Tony Maybery (ex of The Vandells).

Q; What are the lyrics about in general?

NICK; ...well they're about a lot of different things ... all the songs are very different - they've all got different atmospheres and different moods. The words and music go together to create an

SIMON; Nick writes continuously - just wakes up in the middle of the night, thinks of something and writes it down. He has loads of bits of paper all over the place, and when he feels like he's got enough, he gathers them all together and sees if he's got

any basis for an idea. Q; Is the band at all political?

MARCUS; Chris (CJ) says we're apolitical, I'd probably go along with that in that there's nothing directly political in the songs, although they do question things. So there's no definate political philosophy, but on the other hand we've all probably got our own political things as well.

SIMON; There's nothing politic ical in the lyrics really because Nick's more concerned with what is to come rather than what is

now. It's a lot more mental than material.

Q; What about the Brighton music scene?

MARCUS; To tell the truth, I'm not knocking anything, I just don't find any of what I've seen of it particularly interesting.

NICK; I think the only good band is This Colour.

CJ; Yeah.

NICK; They're the only band that can be called anything near original. Q; You say they're the only good band but have you seen bands like, say, Birds With Ears ...

SIMON; They're shit.

Q; ... Carved To A Noise ...

SIMON; They're shit.

Q; ... Death Rides A Horse?

SIMON; They're shit. Hear that interview they did on the radio? How arrogant: 'We're the only band doing anything serious in Brighton. '.... Birds With Ears were a lot better two years ago.

CJ; I don't mind bands like Daddy Yum Yum because they know what they're doing's not serious and they don't take themselves seriously, I don't think.

SIMON; The thing is that everybody in Brighton is afraid to knock anybody else in case they get knocked themselves. I don't actually play in a band, but I don't care what anybody cares or

says about what I do. The band say that they used to be almost a .. d band before they became

Midnight and the Lemon Boys.

MARCUS; Our music's just changed into something else, it's just not like that anymore and we get a different pleasure out of playing quality songs that mean a lot more to us rather than just

going out and being energetic. and to finish, Marcus trys to describe their music. 'There's a lot of different influences, I think just the fact that we've been together so long and we're, like, so enclosed in what

welligo on then

... More MIDNIGHT

we're doing that I don't think it's directly like anything else at all, so I couldn't say it sounded like something. I think there's a lot of influences in there...we listen to a lot of Velvet Underground, we were about a year ago really into the Only Ones, and we've got to have been influenced by U2 because we were on tour with them for such a long time. Another thing that people have said, this was towards the end of last year, is that we're vaguely psychedelic, and that was one that really puzzled us for a while, cos at that time I didn't even know what psychedelic was. It was only when I thought 'what is psychedelic?' that I found out it's supposed to be flowery shirts and sort of monkey's music, so in that sense we're not at all psychedelic, but in the other sense, if you actually look up the definition, it's like music trying to affect the mind in some way or create images, I'd say we were psychedelic.

So basically we get our style, which we think we've got now - a sort of pretty definitive sound from a lot of different influences, but when it comes to actually writing the songs, we try and use our style to make the songs sound in the right mood.

by john.

THURS. 24TH SEPT : BLURT + BIRDS WITH EARS - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT EYE TO EYE + RED SQUARES (P) - CONCORDE

SUN-27TH . TOUCHÉ - KENSINGTON (EVENING-)

TUE- 29 TH : CRUSH THE CLOCKS - ROYALGEORGE, BURGESS HILL

TONY ALLEN, ABA - RICHMOND

WED-30TH : CRUSH THE CLOCKS-NEW REGENT

THURS IST OCTOBER: TONY ALLEN, BRIGHT GIRLS-RICHMOND

CARVEDTO A NOISE - BASEMENT

OK TIVE + IN STEP-XTREEMS, NEW RECENT

SAT. 3RD : JEWEL SHINES DARKLY+ IN STEP-1000 MONKEY CLUB, PAVILION THEATRE THURS 8TH : MODERN ENGLISH + DEATH RIDES A HORSE - XTREEMS, NEW RESENT

SAT 10TH : LIFE SIZE MODELS + SOE DASH - ALHAMBRA

THURS ISTH : STIMULIN-XTREEMS, NEW REGENT

SAT ITTH: DADDY YUM YUM + THE STARBEATS - 1000 MONKEY CLUB, PAVILION THEATRE

SUN 18TH : CRUSH THE CLOCKS - LAMER'S HOTEL, REDHILL.

TUES ZOTH : CRUSH THE CLOCKS- RICHMOND

WED ZIST: THE FALL+ SUPPORT ?! - XTREEMS , NEW REGENT. THUR 22ND : AZTEC CAMERA + NEW MOON THROUGH GLASS - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT.

SUN 25TH : (LUNCHTIME) CRUSH THE CLOCKS - KENSINGTON.

SAT 31ST : FUNK NIGHT WITH HIPNOUS - 1000 MONKEY QUE, PAVILION THEATRE.

* 7TH, BTH & 9TH OCTOBER - CRUSH THE CLOCKS, BALMORAL WORTHING ALSO: THE STARBEATS HAVE A RESIDENCY AT THE PEDESTRIAN ARMS

EVERY SUNDAY EVENING.

SEND ANT BAND INFO TO GI NORTH ROAD, PORTSLADE