

REVELRY AT FIVE-STAR HAPPENING

by CHRISTOPHER D'SOUZA
Pix by TAIYEB BADSHAH

'Twas a real revellous and "with it" crowd that packed Bombay's Shanmukhananda Hall on a fine Sunday morning during October. The attraction . . . ? A show sponsored by Cadbury's entitled Cadbury's 5-Star Super Show.

The crowd . . . wow, was real cool. Young girls, tall 'n big gals all in the latest fashions extending from the mini to the m-m (midi-maxi) and long Victorian dresses. But the hot-line of it all was today's craze, hot-pants. Boy-o-boy, beautiful dolls in shorts with bolero tops, bibs, and colourful hot-pants, shoo-shing about the premises showing off their legs, half encased in their tall boots. You know, I once thought nothing could replace the mini skirt. Now I am not so sure. For the new hot pants (the hottest thing going)

certainly do something for girls . . . we boys, too!

The show began at about 10.30 (half an hour behind schedule) and the first to come on the stage were the **Velvette Fogg**. They went off with quite a bang into their Real Cool World, a number they usually open with. Next was their original composition Your Life And Mine. Sadanand Bhende (vocals) dressed in an orange kurta had the audience all the way with his renditions of Love Me Two Times, Take It As You Come, Teach-her, and lastly I'm So Glad. Here the organ produced much of the lead work. The organist Michael D'Souza deserves mention.

Next to come on were **The Combustibles**—Bombay's highly volatile group (so they say!) with Everett Perry at the mike. They began their cue with Road House Blues in which Lionel (lead) and Bobby (drums) showed some mastery over their instruments. This was followed by a good rendition of Cross Roads and I thought the instrumental prelude to Born To Be Wild was quite fascinating. But their Living Loving Maid was decidedly offkey at places. Ride My Caesar drew much applause from the audience.

The Savages dressed in bizarre outfits put up quite an entrancing performance. They played acid mostly. After Ode To The Messiah which was not so impressive, Bashir and Remo (lead) thought of What Would You Do. Here Remo Ferns was seen displaying some grand lead guitaring with Bashir to back him on the drums. Sex Machine was a hot, acid one. At the request of the audience, they concluded with Old Turkey Buzzard which failed to impress the crowd



ABOVE: On the pedestal
—hot pants . . . the
hottest thing going. FAR
RIGHT: Ajit Singh who
presented himself like
Bob Dylan. RIGHT: A cool
model displays a super
sarong and matching top.

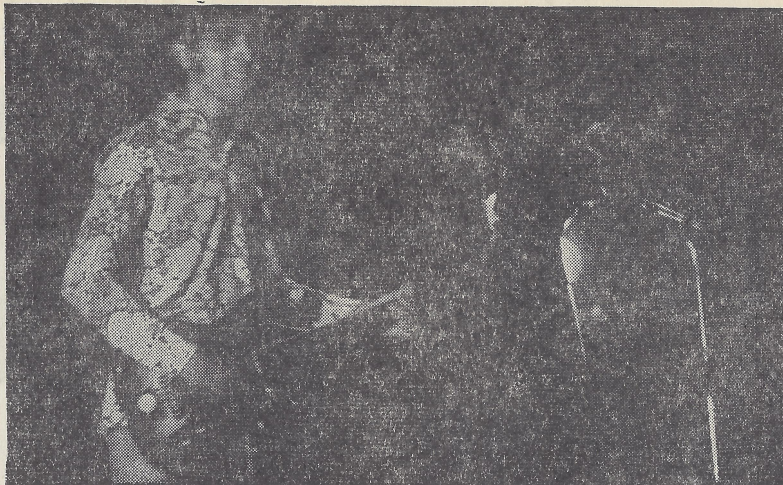


as they were let down by the sound system.

A short interval followed after which the man made famous by JS—the one 'n only **Ajit Singh** came on. Many of his fans started yelling, and screaming their ears away at his sight. Perched up on a stool with his darling—that decorative guitar on his lap—he gave us a taste of his voice with My Sweet Lord, his first offering. And then a yodelling one, Jhum-roo, which was quite entertaining. Ajit is always in the habit of making people laugh when he sings and this was seen in a song Sandra From Bandra which won him never-ending applause. With so much in favour, he then went back to sing Take Off Your Clothes.

The group everybody was waiting for—**Human Bondage**—came on next. They broke their bond with Dear Alvin and stepped on with Young Man which had some very effective drumming, highlighted by some clever guitaring

ABOVE: Ralph Pais of the Savages. RIGHT: The Human Bondage who established immediate rapport with the audience with their distinctive playing and singing.



too. The sound system was a class above that provided by the preceding groups which made listening a real pleasure. Much credit goes to their vocalist Babu Joseph with a fabulous voice. Playing the mouth-organ at the same time, he delighted the audience with his soft and sentimental music.

The Humans then enraptured us with Road House Blues and Stones-e-jam. Their last, Soul Sacrifice was just wonderful. This group provided the best example of synchronization of sound and movement.

To close the show were **The Pentagones** playing for the last time in India. The few good vocals by them were Look What You've Done To My Heart, She Came In Through The Bathroom Window and Tom Jone's She's A Lady. This was another group which presented the audience with feelingly expounded music and vocals. Desmond, lead singer, got himself real tired out twisting, jumping and gyrating like Sajid Khan or more like Tom Jones.

A major highlight of the scintillating morning was a fashion show featuring mod creations on gorgeous models