

# NIGHT TOWN

A FREE SUPPLEMENT  
OF THE  
AQUARIAN WEEKLY

JULY 7-14 1982

ISSUE

## 'The Asbury Park Sound' Revisited, 1982

by Robert S. Bell

For those interested in searching out the Shore's best talent this summer, here's my list of the area's 10 best bands and artists. Those groups that perform only cover music are not included since their role in the overall Shore music scene is a bit different from those bands that play mostly original material. That role, by the way, will be dealt with in a future *Aquarian* article.

Also, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes aren't included in the list either. That's because neither the Jukes nor Springsteen hardly need an introduction.

What follows then is a listing of those bands that over the past year or so have consistently generated excitement in Shore clubs, have demonstrated a significant amount of growth and polish, and possess the potential (some more than others) to perhaps someday garner a record deal.

Most of the groups mentioned here are third generation Shore bands. But strangely enough, some of the artists and band members have roots that extend all the way back to the '60s and the days of gigging at the Student Prince, the Sunshine Inn, and of course, the Upstage—the years and the clubs that preceded the golden era of Asbury Park (1975-1978).

The new bands and artists mentioned below represent a much needed commitment to the resurgence of the Shore as a viable, exciting music scene and prove that a renaissance of sorts may just be in the making. Obviously all of this is my own opinion, and not, obviously, infallible. I do hope, though, that it is an informed one.

### 8. Junior Smoots & the Disturbers

One of the Shore's few reggae bands, Junior Smoots and the Disturbers can usually be heard at the Fast Lane on "Reggae Wednesday." This Asbury Park-based outfit has only been together some six months yet they possess an impressive enough understanding of the Jamaican music form to have acquired a fairly substantial following. In short, they're a welcome addition to the music scene here.

Smoots and the Disturbers are primarily a dance band that highlights the delectable reggae beat with both feel and fun. Smoots, who became a reggae convert after spending some time in Jamaica, does all of the writing in the band. The Disturbers though also include in their set such classic reggae standards as Bob Marley and Peter Tosh's "Get Up, Stand Up."

Junior Smoots and the Disturbers have been drumming up interest in reggae at the Shore almost singlehandedly. For a change of pace (and beat), Smoots and the Disturbers are a good bet.