



# FIREWORKS

London's *Call the Office* was the scene of the debut performance of Vee Gates, a trio consisting of Levasseur on guitar and lead vocals, John McGrath on bass guitar, and Trent Rogers on drums and backing vocals. Levasseur and McGrath are former Sarnians while Rogers resides there presently.

Having been one of the privileged few to receive a copy of the band's demo tape, your intrepid reporter had some idea of what to expect, but was nonetheless pleasantly surprised by their live sound. There was an edge to the songs that had not been captured on tape. This was in part due to the skilled hands of Jerry, *Sheep Look Up's* sound man, on the mixing board. The sound is reminiscent of Marshall Crenshaw with a Hüsker Dü-like edge.

The boys were nervous for the first set, and it showed. Especially when Levasseur forgot the words to *Something Else* one of the band's four covers. One occurrence that baffled your reporter was an excursion into the great outdoors by Levasseur during *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

The second set was more relaxed (the free pitcher of beer may have had something to do with this) and was highlighted by *Diamonds in Her Eyes*, about a girl's quest for a "wetting" ring, and by *We all Live in this House*. Also included in this set was something called *K.G.B. Opera* which ended with Levasseur lying dead on the stage. Interesting, but it went over like the proverbial lead balloon.

The third set was even more relaxed (more free beer?) and began with the now classic *Among the Ruins* which contains the immortal line: "She wore a wetting gown of silk that was all bloody". (This wetting thing seems to be a recurring theme.) The set continued in this manner for the band was, as they say in their song *Call the Office*, "...having a great time at Call the Office." The night concluded with a rocking version of *Should I Stay or Should I Go?*

All in all it was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening. An original touch was provided by the distribution of official Vee Gates souvenir song sheets. In your faithful reporter's opinion it was a performance worthy of at least a Thursday, if not a full-fledged weekend, return engagement. Look for them in July if not sooner.

**Mr. Excitement**