

# NO SLEEP TILL MONTREUX



It's the largest annual televised pop festival, courtesy of the BBC, and it's seen by millions of viewers all over Europe. After last year's Frankie smash up and with stories of the BEASTIE BOYS' antics in America already rife, it was obvious that this year's Montreux pop festival was bound to have its fair share of fun. Seemed like a good time to send out Paul Simper. Here's his diary of events from Tuesday to Friday . . .

## TUESDAY 12 MAY

**0750.** The first sighting of Johnnie Popstar at Heathrow. **CHERYL BAKER** is sitting disconsolately near the bank where she has just realised she's forgotten her passport. Onwards through customs for No. 1 . . .

**1130.** Arrival at Geneva from whence it takes an hour's drive or train ride to reach the normally sleepy town of Montreux. Over the next few days record companies are busily ferrying folks back and forth. Unfortunately this does not extend to **CLUB NOUVEAU** who are completely forgotten until late into the next night. Titter.

**1445.** Arriving in Montreux you're immediately hit by what a titchy gaff it is. One street about a mile and a half long and every hotel crammed with pop's so-say elite.

There is news though that **GENESIS** have thought better of a secret gig they were due to play on the Saturday (they eventually change their mind again and do it). Not to matter, there's quite enough folk to keep you occupied ticking off titles on your popstar guide book. Within seconds of sinking a Tuborg in some ludicrously priced coffee shop (three pounds a bevy is par for the course) **MICK HUCKNALL** enters for a quick

croissant. A couple of gals thrust pens up his nose but generally nobody notices. You'll get pretty used to this sort of thing.

One person who's not so hot on the pop-spotting front is **BEASTIE BOY MCA**.

"I was in the bar at the Hyatt (where even the toilet cleaner has at least played with **DURAN DURAN**) and Say, who was with us, was going 'look look there's **UB40**, there's **SIMPLY RED**, there's **DEPECHE MODE**' . . . I hadn't a clue who any of these guys



were."  
**1600.** Pop up to the Haytt, whose foyer is in a complete state of chaos with Radio One's equipment spread all

over the gaff. The whole of Fleet Street is also hanging round ignoring **THE BLOW MONKEYS** and **DEPECHE MODE** and making up stories that **UB40** are going to split. The whole point of the week's japes seems to be to make up as many fibs as poss . . . this will of course step up a few notches when the Brooklyn Boys arrive. **1700.** Up to the Excelsior hotel where **PATSY KENSIT** is wandering around downstairs in something which can only be described as modest underwear. This does not interest **SPANDAU BALLETT'S JOHN KEEBLE** and **TONY HADLEY** who are doing an unnecessarily lengthy interview with a feisty looking lass from Greek TV.

Manager **STEVE DAGGER** is incredulous. "They'd never have done Greek TV in a million years otherwise! Look the camera's not even working! Anyone else and they'd have sloped back to their rooms by now!"

**GARY KEMP** is keen to find out what he's been missing in London while the Spands have been touring round Europe, culminating in a recent 80,000 spectacular in Madrid.

Gary's got a goodish tan (**MARTIN'S** black) but he looks a bit weary.

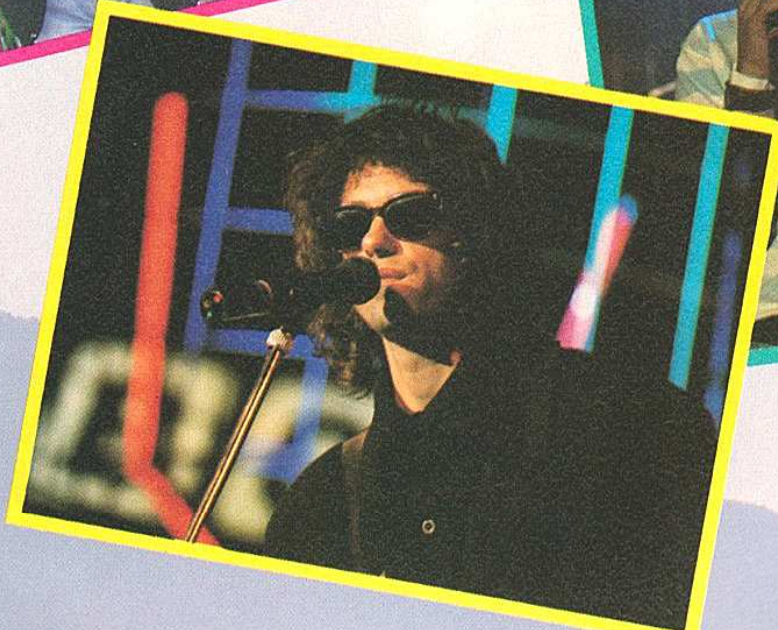
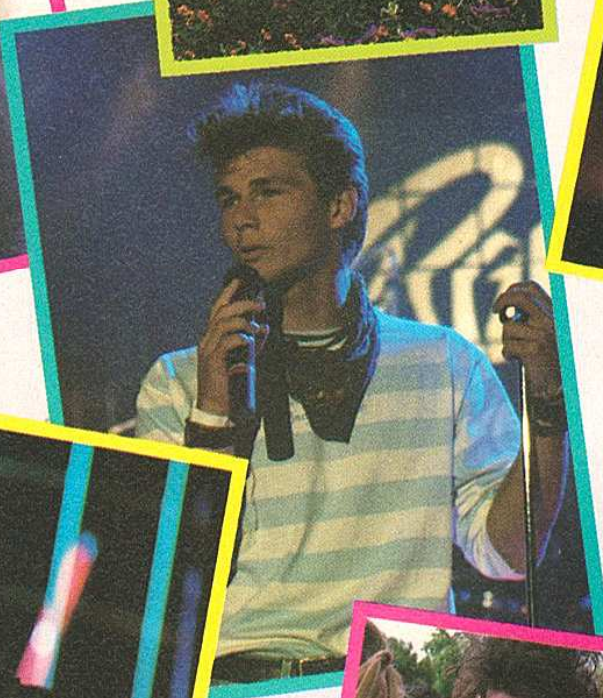
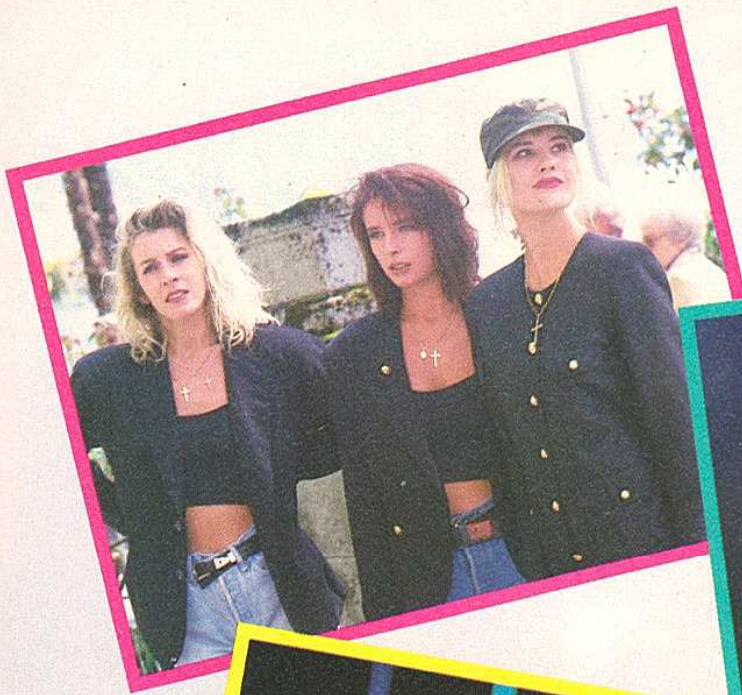
"We've been at it solid since

November. After we've played in Barcelona tomorrow we've got an eight week break while I do some writing then it's a tour of Italy and maybe America.



"We were desperate for a party last night (some of the bands arrived on Monday for rehearsals Tuesday). We hunted everywhere but it was no good. I wish something exciting would happen in the charts - something new. I can just see some 17-year-olds coming along and blowing us all away. **CURIOSITY** and **SWING OUT SISTER** are alright but they're just an

CONTINUED OVER ►



extension of the club thing that we started."

Patsy's none too impressed with the **BEASTIES**. "They're very white and skinny," she says with a look of mild disgust. Later on **SAMANFA FOX** agrees with her, probably also to Patsy's chagrin.

**2000.** **THEY'VE ARRIVED.** The **BEASTIES** troop into the Montreux Palace where Fleet Street have been lurking vaguely discreet for the past couple of hours. A quick cuss at the deco and they're off to their rooms.

**2100.** The first flap for CBS press gal Fiona — the Beasties have disappeared! Seems they've popped out in search of a pizza. Luckily they're back an hour later but they're hardly in the mood for being Beastly. They've spent the last 24 hours flying from New York to London, spending three hours at the airport there and then onto Geneva and Montreux. News of a CBS party at the Bonivard does revive their interest a tad though.

**2200.** Off to the Bonivard but it doesn't look good. The room is full of CBS executives, some kebabs, some sole, mash and cheese and a selection of bevvie minus tequila. The Beasties settle for five minutes then **MCA** declares "this is the worst party ever" and they walk out again. Heading for

the Hyatt.

**2300.** Things finally start to hot up for those who've stuck it out at the Bonivard. **SPANDAU** and **EIGHTH WONDER** arrive having already spent the time since their performances sinking Bloody Marys at the hotel. Girls from finishing schools have been met and everyone is ready for more of the same.



Apparently tonight's show which also included UB40 and Depeche was a dull affair. Everyone was, after all, miming though with live mikes so you can chat informally between songs.

**2345.** Bored with the Hyatt the Beasties return to the CBS do where

they chuck two cream cakes on the floor before dashing off again. Patsy is now well into things and encourages folk to lob cheese mash at a giant poster of her. The Spands are now through seven bottles of Jack Daniels.

**WEDNESDAY 13 MAY**

**0200.** The party has returned to the Hyatt where the UB40 mob are still going strong. Spandau have decided by now that the **BEASTIES** are complete wimps in the drink stakes having turned down a challenge.

"Just a bunch of dodgy big-mouths," reckons one of the party. In a particularly inebriated moment **KEMP G.** admits to his love for fell-walking. Lose two points on the rock and roll scale.

**0400.** Party's over. The Beasties have a quick scuffle with **RUN DMC** which is contrived, to say the least, seeing as they're on tour together. Everyone looks forward to the press conference at 1100.

**1100.** The Beasties' press conference assembles. The Boys are having a quiet brekky of scrambled eggs and croissants next door before they finally emerge over the balcony and through a french window.

Surprisingly Fleet Street seems pretty quiet. It's only the photographers who

charge the front table where the Beasties will conduct affairs. About 100 press the lens up against them. Finally they're made to sit down... well, move back a bit. The questions though are

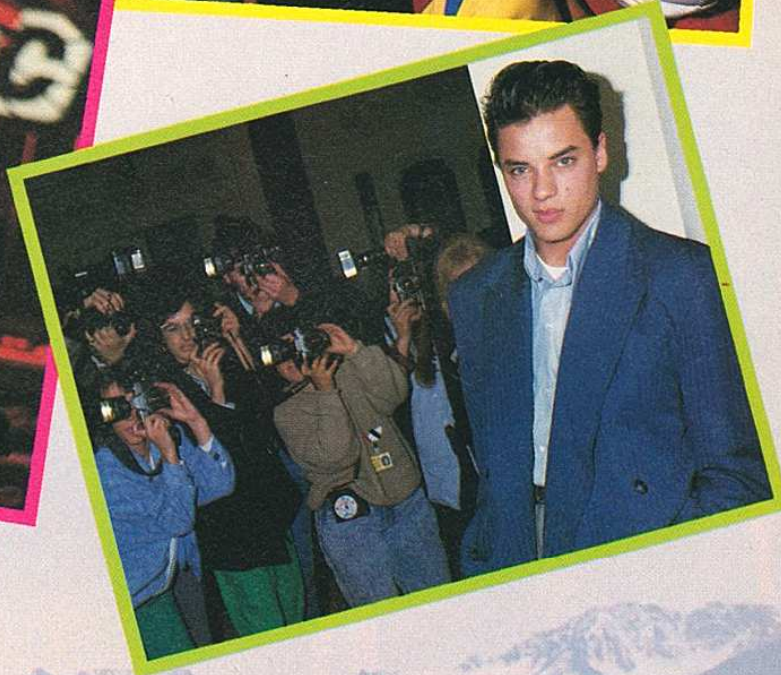


pretty mundane:— **Question from a German mag:**

"I'd like to know what sort of jokes you've got planned for the hotels in Europe?"

**MCA:** "We don't plan the jokes (rather miffed) **WHAT DO YOU MEAN?**"

**Mike D:** (in slightly better spirits) "I'd just like to say that our man Rikki has brought at least two whoopee cushions and some fart spray."



**Question from an American mag:** "What happened to the camera from the CBS building (which the Beasties were alleged to have filched)?"

**Mike D:** "I think you've got it. That looks just like the one, man."

**MCA:** (no cheerier) "We deny everything."

Someone asks them what they think of Switzerland.

**Mike D:** "We like the Swiss army knives, skiing, fondu, cuckoo clocks and



Flugel horns."

With that it's goodbye. Or rather it would have been but as they prepare to return to their brekky the Fleet Street photographers, still short of a story,

break in through a side-door and one of them kicks the Beasties' table and hurls some croissants at them. The Beasties - rather taken aback - lob some sugar lumps and Fleet Street have their front page SHOCK HORROR shots.

**1230.** The Beasties have to go off to do an interview for MTV. It seems America is keen to hear how their troublesome sons are getting on away from home.

"There's been a lot of heat on you in America," says MTV's guy with the funny glasses. "Will you change your show for Europe?"

**MCA:** "I don't know. We'll be playing it by ear. We like to change things around." (He turns to Mike D who is perched on the balcony edge overlooking the lake.) "You see you can't confine Mike. You can't label Mike, Mike is a unique kind of guy. You never know what the guy is going to do next. The man is a regular whizz. He's a dynamo... A musical interlude."

And that does for MTV.  
**1500.** There's a playback of the **WHITNEY HUSTON** album up the road which is attended by most. **THE BLOW MONKEYS** stick their heads round the corner for a quick listen. **KIM WILDE** meanwhile is conducting interviews four at a time. (1

screamed at a Beastie last night and he looked at me like I was an idiot." A big fan).

Later on Whitney Houston tops this by walking round about six tables,



eight to a table, thereby neatly avoiding any dodgy questions. **1900. THE THOMPSON TWINS** are in the Palace bar preparing for the evening's show with non-alcoholic bevvy. Some of **GELDOP'S** management are admitting they think they may have gaffed *un peu* with the album. "Bad idea using all those big names" seems to be the general theory. **1930.** It's off down to the Casino where the groups are all doing their

performances. Tonight it's the **BEASTIES** and **RUN DMC** who are the main attraction and true to form they make a good entry in the backstage bar blasting out some row or other from a beat-box.

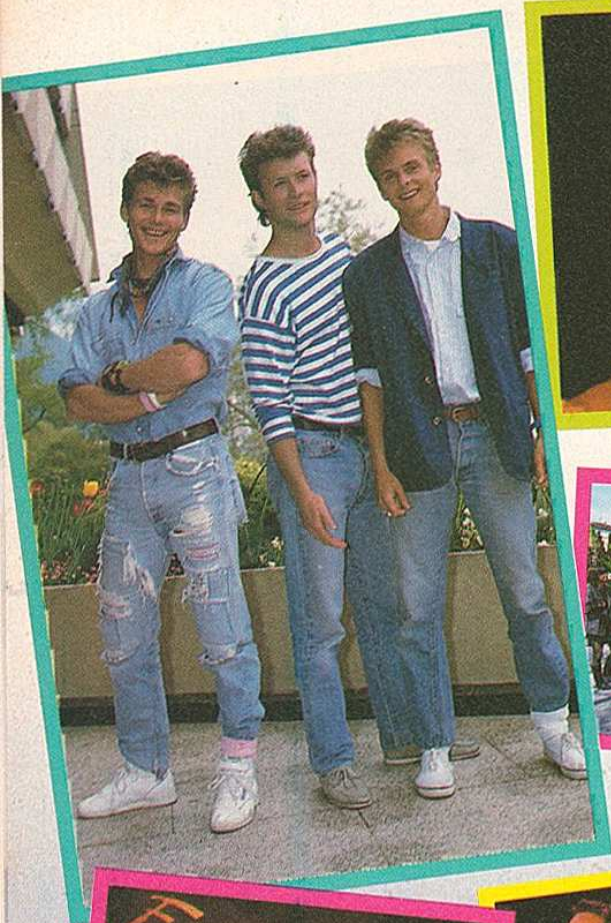
**SAMANFA FOX** pulls a face in the corner where she is standing on a bar to elevate her height somewhat. **VESTA WILLIAMS** ploughs through the middle and someone mentions the extraordinary info that this is in fact **BRUCE Moonlighting WILLIS'S** beau.

Of most amusement to one and all is **ERASURE'S** performance which involves yet more of that extraordinary camp completely out-of-time dancing of **ANDY BELL** and that awful lurex body suit of his.

**GREGORY ABBOT** comes on in a ludicrous tux and everyone thinks **JULIO IGLESIAS** is having a joke. Everyone except Gregory. **2200. SWING OUT SISTER** do their bit and **CORINNE** manages to get her mouth to work.

"My mouth is still numb from having my teeth out. That was two weeks ago but I still can't feel anything... I had a drink the other day and the whole thing just dribbled down my chin. And I'm not even a Beastie Boy!"

**CONTINUED OVER ►**



**THURSDAY 14 MAY**

**0100.** Inevitably back to the Hyatt bar where **RUN DMC** are falling all over the shop. They charm **BANANARAMA** not in the least when one takes a grope at **KEREN**. Never trust your labelmates!

**SWING OUT SISTER'S MARTIN** is getting well into the Margueritas. A favourite potion.

**0330.** Just as everyone's starting to lag, **CURIOSITY'S BEN** and **MIGI**



turn up—Migi plus walking stick due to ankle injury. **DURAN** and **BOY GEORGE** on the other hand are staying well away from the Hyatt. **JOHN TAYLOR** cannot be raised from his bed at the Palace for love nor

money. Bed again.

**1200.** First up to brekky at the Bonivard are **PAUL YOUNG'S** gang of 50 who pretty much take the area over with a bit of noisy competition from the **GELDOLF** camp.

**1330.** **BANANARAMA** arise while Paul Young's mob move to the sunshine outside the hotel on the grass. Champagne is ordered and a lot of loud uncomplimentary comments are made about the *Sun*.

**1600.** Back at the Excelsior, **SWING OUT** and **CURIOSITY** are doing their press conferences—quiet affairs after the previous day's shenanigans. Someone from Fleet Street admits they may have peaked too early. Word has started to get back about the *Mirror's* infamous 'Cripple' story of dubious origin. The CBS hotline is fair a-buzzing into early evening.

**1800.** Back at the Bonivard bar, **GELDOLF** is making his feelings felt on the subject of Fleet Street.

"It's disgusting. It's got right out of hand. It's like they think they're actually above the law now."

But he's still enjoying the festival. "It's much better than the Italian one—San Remo. You don't get anyone doing anything except the Italian fans who are completely mad. They chase you down the streets whoever you are!"

**2000.** Down at the Casino, **THE COMMUNARDS** are braving the dangers of being the only band to sing live.



**A-HA** go for the safe way but no one is that impressed by "the new one" which is the Bond theme.

**2200.** **PAUL YOUNG'S** dinner party pops across and dishes out some very nice brandy. Top notch.

**2345.** Back at the Hyatt it's **BANANARAMA'S** turn to go for it. Steaming through the voddy and margueritas as one of their dancers announces a number of versatile tricks young **SARAH** will perform if she stays on her feet long enough. Luckily

she doesn't. **SIOBHAN** meanwhile talks of her love for **DAVE STEWART** who sounds a complete nutter.

**FRIDAY 15 MAY**  
**0400.** The **BANANAS** throw a small party back at their apartment which seems to resemble a youth hostel with various friends' beds all over the gaff. This falls apart an hour and a half later and people struggle off to their private floor spaces. Siobhan phones Dave Stewart for another chat to LA.

**1000.** An early rise for the Banana bunch who are off back to England.

**1200.** Over to The Suisse Majestic where **CURIOSITY** have arisen and are starting on their day of interviews following on from a successful showing at the Casino last night.

**NICK** tells of an amusing incident recently when they swiped a photographer's lens after he had bothered them for hours. "We all got together with **MANDY SMITH, SHIRLIE & PEPSIE** and **BOB GELDOLF** and said 'OK, let's do a group shot'. He couldn't believe his luck 'till he noticed his lens was missing. Soon as he found it everyone disappeared."

**2400.** And with that, *No. 1* is off back to Geneva on the train. Ta ta...