

Tops of the week: Z.Z. Top and imports

A Hungarian rock group making their first appearance in Cleveland.

A Canadian rock group with particular promise.

And your old favorite, Z. Z. Top.

These were the triple treats last Friday at the Allen.

The Top came back for four encores and left exhausted.

"You make us feel just like we're in our own back yard," said the towering one with the Stetson. He was 5 feet 11 but looked at least 8 feet tall up there.

The other guitarist had a curly beard and looked like an old prospector in the dim light.

Z. Z. Top is a trio from Texas and they bring something special, a rollicking sense of humor. They sing of beer drinkers and Muddy Waters and Thunderbird wine and hell raisers and the crowd loves them all.

One song that they liked a great deal was "Back Door Love Affair."

"We're just a little old band from Texas," they say.

The leadoff band was Locomotive G.T., a rocker

from Hungary. They have nine gold records. They sell 15,000 tickets in three hours in Europe. And they have been invited to perform with the Grand Funk.

The group consists of Thomas Barta on guitar, Joseph Loux on drums, Gabor Presser on piano and Thomas Somlo on bass, alto sax and violin.

The bass player added a harmonica in one song and the drummer got off his chair and drummed all over the stage.

This talented group has another thing going for them. The drummer's pretty wife not only has a law degree, but writes their lyrics. Standout song: "She's Just 14."

Rush, the Canadian band, was a delightful surprise. They're a three-man outfit, but sound like 10.

Lead singer Geddy Lee has a high-pitched voice, not unlike Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin. He had trouble with the mike and revealed later that he couldn't even hear his own voice. But the group had such energy and power that few noticed.



Locomotive GT is the first rock group from behind the Iron Curtain to play here.

WGAR will be the only station associated with Cleveland's only year-round theater-in-the-round, the Front Row Theater. Sammy Davis Jr., Vikki Carr, the Fifth Dimension, Andy Williams, Dionne Warwick, Shirley MacLaine are some of the artists on the agenda.

Jim Mauk's latest number is 15-60-75 but it's not his measurement nor his Social Security. It's the new band from Kent that he is managing.

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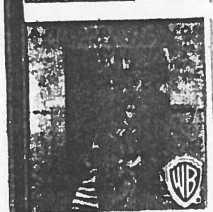
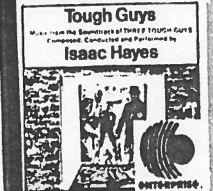
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