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e.c. **FURRELLE'S**



Singer/songwriter Michelle Shocked will perform at Northampton's Academy of Music tomorrow night at 8:30.

'Typical' farewell

By Seth Rogovoy
Special to The Eagle

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The Adams-based rock group The Typical's will bid farewell to the Berkshires with a performance at the Key West Lounge in North Adams tomorrow night at 9.

After that show, the group is headed to New York City, where it will play its final performance at CBGB's — the famous downtown club that spawned punk-rock and a host of other "underground" styles — on Nov. 11.

PopCorner

And then, according to Typical's co-founder and chief singer/songwriter, John Barry, the group will call it quits.

Formed three years ago by Barry and fellow guitarist/songwriter Mike O'Neill, the Typical's have been one of the Berkshires' most creative — and least commercially successful — rock bands.

"We've done all we can around here," said Barry last week, explaining why the group is disbanding. "In the last year we haven't gone forward at all. It's like beating our heads against the wall."

At the group's peak, about a year-and-a-half ago, the Typical's were performing in clubs in Boston, Northampton and Albany, N.Y.

The musicians were also garnering a following with their independently released album, "Popscreams," a sprightly, hook-laden debut that attracted some interest among major-label recording executives.

More recently, however, the Typical's have fallen victim to the dying club scene in the major cities, where even local favorites are having a hard time attracting crowds, making it nearly impossible for out-of-towners to get bookings.

The biggest disappointment, however, has been the lack of reception on the group's home turf.

"We were basically blackballed from the beginning from most of the clubs around here," said Barry, "because we didn't fit the bill of classic-rock crap."

The Typical's play only original songs, which makes them most atypical in the county, where most bands cover familiar hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s.

What is most typical, however, about the Typical's material is the subject matter — the ups and downs of modern romance and relationships — which

TYPICALS, continued on D4

The Typicals want true musicians

■ **TYPICALS**, from D1 most everyone can easily relate to.

It's also ironic that the Typicals can hardly be considered an experimental outfit. Their music is infectious pop-rock that owes a heavy debt to the Beatles and the Byrds, those most classic of classic rockers.

"We're just sick of dealing with the clubs around here," said

Barry, "and trying to find people who want to play for the sake of playing, and not worrying about how much money they're making."

Barry and O'Neill have had a hard time finding musicians willing to commit themselves to the group, and have gone through a number of bassists and drummers over the last few years.

"I want to go somewhere where

there are a lot of good musicians who just want to play music," said Barry, who is planning on moving to Texas, where he said the music scene is much more open-minded and it's a lot cheaper to live.

"It comes down to whether or not you want to play music or do it as a hobby," said Barry. "I don't want to do it as a hobby."

CONCERT WATCH:

English pop-rockers Squeeze are at Williams College tonight. The Candyskins will open the show.

Singer/songwriter Michelle Shocked — whose concert at the Berkshire Performing Arts Center two summers ago still ranks as one of the all-time best this critic has ever seen — is at Northampton's Academy of Music tomorrow night at 8:30.

Southern rockers 38 Special are at the Paramount Performing Arts Center in Springfield Sunday night, followed by Patti LaBelle Tuesday night.

Dread Zeppelin features an Elvis Presley impersonator singing

reggae versions of Led Zeppelin songs. Catch the group at Pearl Street in Northampton, Tuesday night at 8.

Blues guitar genius Buddy Guy is at the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton for two nights in a row, Tuesday and Wednesday, with two shows at 7 and 10, both nights.

RECORD CANYONS:

James Taylor, "New Moon Shine" (Columbia): The archetypal adult-contemporary singer-songwriter makes the archetypal A-C S/S CD. Along the way, he kicks musically and politically with a sharp, cutting rocker about the Persian Gulf War ("Slap Leather") and some bouncy, folk-pop laced with gospel about race relations ("Shed a Little Light"). On Sam Cooke's "Everybody Loves to Cha Cha Cha," he's at his sensual best. Who would've thought JT would've been the one to stand up and rail against George Bush's fantasy of a kinder, gentler nation? And has he ever sounded more like Bob Dylan? ()