

## WOMEN

# Maxine and all that jazz!



Miss Maxine Lautré the "behind the scenes" player wearing a "jazzy" outfit, which she made herself.

"THE BLUE NOTES are as far removed from the Beatles as Bach!" stated Miss Maxine Lautré emphatically. And she should know. She threw up a perfectly safe office job in Johannesburg to go touring with this South African jazz group as their self-appointed manager.

This tall, vivacious girl from Parktown, handles all the group's publicity, financial and legal matters, hall bookings and accommodation arrangements—and on occasion has to ensure that the musicians don't forget to eat!

The group has been in existence for only a few months but it has already made its impact felt in South Africa and overseas. In Maxine's postbag recently there was a neatly-printed invitation for the group to appear at the Antibes Jazz Festival to be held in France in August.

"As soon as all our passports are fixed up we'll be off to the French Riviera," said Maxine. Naturally, the sextet headed by Chris McGregor and made up of five African players, wouldn't dream of going anywhere without their "behind-the-scenes" player — Maxine.

## The best

What made her back the Blue Notes? "They're the best group in South Africa!" she explained. "I felt that they had the talent—all they needed was a chance."

There isn't much that she hasn't crammed into her young life. She obtained a B.A. degree, majoring in psychology, at the University of Natal, in Maritzburg. "In my present sphere I get by without the psychology, all I need is common sense," said Maxine matter-of-factly.

She has worked on a magazine in London; taken parties of students to Greece — "I just

had to ensure that their tickets were in order, then I didn't see them for a month. Meanwhile I had a free holiday thrown in!" she grinned.

With three other girls, she hitchhiked through the Continent, went on canal trips in a "battered canoe" and also did some skiing in Norway.

The Blue Notes have just completed a tour of the Republic in a second-hand mini-bus with Maxine and Chris as drivers. Maxine has many an interesting tale to tell about the adventures that befell them on their travels.

Like the evening when they arrived hot, tired and hungry in Port Elizabeth. The time 7.45 p.m.; the time their show was scheduled to start? 8 p.m.

Or the day the engine "conked out" in the middle of the Karoo. And the time that...

But back to their proposed French trip. "It's absolutely fab! It's just the break they need," enthused Maxine.

The group will play in a Parisienne night-club called "The Blue Note" — a complete coincidence — after it has appeared at the festival.

The Blue Notes are giving two farewell concerts in the Johannesburg City Hall on Friday and Saturday night, plus a special matinee for non-Europeans on Saturday afternoon.

"We hope to make up the R300 which we spent on repairing the engine of the mini-bus!" explained Maxine.

This time Maxine won't be acting as cashier or "chucker out" of gate crashers — two posts which she usually fills at performances.