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Street

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STREET SOUNDS

Woke Up With a Monster — Cheap Trick



"Woke Up With a Monster," Cheap Trick's first album for their new label, Warner Brothers Records, goes from one bad song to another.

They seem to have espoused the old punk motto of "three chords, no waiting." Their only problem is that the songs lack the energy, passion and relevant lyrical content that made punk rock a musical force in the late 1970s. The only problem is that the songs lack the energy, passion and relevant lyrical content that made punk rock a musical force in the late 1970s.

lyrics, at their best, reach the sophisticated level of the song "You're All I Wanna Do."

Cheap Trick often points to the fact that guitarist Rick Nielsen has an extensive collection of distinctive guitars and that bassist Tom Peterson plays 12-string basses which he designed himself. "Woke Up With a Monster" is proof that no matter how cool your guitar is, it can not write a good song.

Cheap Trick is lucky it has built a reputation over the last 17 years with songs like "I Want You to Want Me" and "Dream Police" because it will give them another opportunity to make a good record. If they can recapture the spirit of rock'n'roll they once had, they could go on to record something worth a listen. Until then, they will just have to continue riding on their reputation.

— Eric Darling

"Carotid" — Walk on Water



The band's five-song debut for Detroit's Rustbelt Records proves once again that Walk on Water is one of the area's alternative rock bands most likely to hit it big.

Although Mark Kahian's vocals aren't flawless, he conveys emotion that there's no doubting the emotions he wants to share.

The horns on the opening number "Six a.m." add new dimension to Walk on Water while the groovy "Lower Me" has hit potential.

The release is available through Rustbelt Records, 1145 Griswold St., Detroit, MI 48226.

— Christina Fuoco

Whatever — Screwface



There are two curses common to the early recording efforts of too many rock bands: either the songs all sound exactly the same, or they're so diverse that the sound of the group is lost. Detroit's own Screwface, after only about one year together, has deftly warded off both of these evils with its debut release, "Whatever."

Band members Clay Brown, Steve Wiener and Brian Foley run the gamut of contemporary grunge/riot in this cohesive compilation of 10 tunes.

The Screwface sound is dark and heavy without sinking to the lugubrious, while the lyrics often display a subtle black humor. "Whatever" opens with the sledgehammer riff of "Needle" and closes with the uncompromising thrash of "Porno Movie" and "M.D.Y.M."

In between, Screwface conjures the spirits of Primus, Soundgarden and Tool. The instrumental "Cat Daddy" tips its hat to the Eric Gales Band with a punchy punk-funk groove.

The one change Screwface might want to make would be to add a lead vocalist to the line-up. Guitarist Clay Brown currently covers most of the vocal chores, and he's not bad at all, but the music-ianship and arrangements deserve vocals of the same superior caliber.

"Whatever" is anything but the after-thought title implies. On the contrary, it's an extremely impressive piece of work.

— Matthew DeLuzanne

"The Flintstones" Soundtrack — various artists



It's a relatively mundane soundtrack to the film dubbed "the movie of the summer." Parody songs by Green Jelly ("Anarchy in the U.S.A.") and "Wild Al" Vanaskovic ("Badass Anthem") are good for a laugh.

As for the rest of the soundtrack, it's weird to hear bands like Big Audio Dynamite ("Rock With a Caveman"), Screaming Blue Messiahs ("I Wanna Be a Flintstone") and Shakespears Sister ("Prehistoric Daze") sing serious songs about the stone-age family.

Overall, the MCA Records release won't provide for a gay old time.

— Christina Fuoco

Sprocket lights up St. Andrew's

From Toad the Wet Sprocket to Jeff Buckley and a New Orleans style funeral for a well-known barman, the metro Detroit music scene will be as exciting as the Freedom Festival fireworks Wednesday night.

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Having hit singles and albums has been inspiring to Toad the Wet Sprocket's drummer Randy Guss. But within the last few years he has found touring especially enlightening — literally.

During a set by opening band Geggy Tah, Guss was at the helm of the lighting board. It's a fascination he's had since Toad toured with the Gin Blossoms two years ago.

"One night the house lighting guy wasn't there, I said 'I'll do it,'" said Guss via telephone from CNN headquarters in Atlanta where his bandmates were being interviewed by cartoon characters. "It's actually really fun. It reminds me of being in an opening band."

Controlling Geggy Tah's light show allowed him to help turn Toad fans on to the "avant soul" duo while mingling with his own fans, he added.

Toad is touring in support of its latest album "Dulcinea," a more mellow effort than its platinum-selling predecessor "Fear." It's filled with Toad's trademark alt-pop ("Fly from Heaven") but this time around the California quartet dabbles in country ("Nanci") and straight-forward rock'n'roll ("Fall Down").

Guss said that although there's a slight sound change with "Dulcinea," it's a fairer representation of the band's sound.

"It's not necessarily off the regular path. It's just that we're farther along."

Toad the Wet Sprocket and Geggy Tah perform at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, at 7:30



Detroit debut: Jeff Buckley (second from left) plays the Gem Theatre in Detroit July 1 with his band, which includes Mick Grondahl, Matt Johnson and Michael Tighe.

p.m. Thursday, June 30. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door for the all-ages show. For more information, call (313) 961-5451.

Be forewarned, June 30 is the rain day for the Detroit-Windsor International Freedom Festival fireworks downtown.

Jeff Buckley
Jeff Buckley has played in bands for most of his life but when he

found himself broke last year, he decided to go out on his own and rethink his musical career.

"I needed money and I needed to find out exactly what the music is, what it feels like, what it looks like," said a mumbling, groggy Buckley who had just woken up.

He planned to play solo for a while but just like love, his band members came into his life unexpectedly.

"I think the romantic in me was

trying to send out a pheromone hoping that the right band would smell me and marry me," he said. "If I wasn't playing (with the new line-up) I'd be pretty devastated."

Guitarist/vocalist Buckley and his relatively new band — bassist Mick Grondahl, drummer Matt Johnson and guitarist Michael Tighe — will make their Detroit-area debut Friday, July 1, at the Gem Theatre in Detroit. The set will feature material from the quartet's first full-length studio album "Grace," due to hit stores on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Earlier this year Buckley released his debut solo EP "Live at Sin-E" and since then, music industry insiders have been abuzz about Buckley's raw talent. Does that add any pressure to Buckley who said currently his life is in a major upheaval?

"No, not really. It makes me feel kind of busy," he said. "You get to a place and it's like walking into the village of the damned (where) they already know who I am. But really nobody knows what I'm doing 'til I get there."

The soft-spoken California guitarist admits that fans of his solo album haven't been quite sure how to take his new project. But, he said, they haven't been disappointed.

"I think they've been skeptical but then when they come in and see... it's not like a pickup band or just these session guys. They're gonna be around for awhile."

For more information about tickets, which are \$8, call (313) 963-9800.

Fond farewell

Friends and family of former Alvin's manager Herman (Willie) Landt will say good-bye to him Saturday, July 2, the way he wanted it — with a New Orleans-style funeral on his birthday in front of the Detroit restaurant/bar.

"Walk With Willie" will pay tribute to Landt who died May 24 of heart failure.

"This is what he wanted," said Bernard Kurkowiak, who co-managed Alvin's with Landt, her companion of 17 years. "He made us

See EXCITING, 9A

Proclaimers hit the highway 4 years later



Look-alikes: The Proclaimers — identical twins Craig and Charlie Reid — play the Majestic in Detroit July 7 with Greenberry Woods.

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The Proclaimers were confident that they were going to have a hit in the United States some day. They just didn't think that it would be nearly four years after the song was originally released.

"We always expected that if we were going to have a hit in America that you'd be on the road somewhere, sitting in Texas or New York when you found out," said Craig Reid who makes up The Proclaimers with his brother Charlie. "But I was in my house in Edinburgh (Scotland), we'd not played live for years."

The acoustic ditty "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" sold nearly a million copies after it became a part of the soundtrack to "Benny & Joon" in 1993.

The album on which it was originally released "Sunshine on Leth" sold another 450,000.

"We were shocked; they told us they wanted to use it in the movie and we thought they were just doing a

■ The acoustic ditty "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" sold nearly a million copies after it became a part of the soundtrack to "Benny & Joon" in 1993.

soundtrack album and only 10 seconds in the middle of the song (would be in the movie)," Reid said.

The only drawback to the song's popularity was that The Proclaimers weren't prepared to tour when it hit, Reid said.

Now, they've hit the highway in support of their new album appropriately titled, "Hit the Highway."

The Proclaimers and Greenberry Woods will perform at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, on Thursday, July 7. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$13.50 in advance. Call (313) 963-7690 or (810) 645-6666 for more information.

IN CONCERT

RESURGERS WITH NANCY E. O'CLUB, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (blues) (810) 334-7411

Tuesday, June 28

PHIL COLLINS
The Palace of Auburn Hills, 1-75 and Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills. (pop) (810) 377-0100

ROCK BOT
With Little Fish, Johnny Allen and Psycho Cuts at Ott's Ott, 439 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (rock) (810) 334-9292

ROCKERS
Rocks a Blues Jam at The Office, 15414 Telegraph, Redford. (blues) (810) 377-0100

8448
With Anshouse and Sonic Boomerang at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (blues/alternative) (313) 961-4617

WINDY HEAVENS
With Loose Struts and R-World at Ott's Ott, 439 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative pop) (810) 334-9292

NINA HAGEN
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (punk rock) (810) 334-1999

BEASTIE BOYS VIVID APPRECIATION NIGHT
3-0, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (video) (810) 565-2344

SMELLS LIKE AMERICAN
With Larry Andrade, Norm Jean Bell and Straight Ahead at Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac. (rock) (810) 333-4850

DIZIE DRESS
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (blues/alternative) (313) 961-4617

Wednesday, June 29

PHIL COLLINS
The Palace of Auburn Hills, 1-75 and Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills. (pop) (810) 377-0100

SMELLS LIKE AMERICAN
Who Fury in the Stoughhouse at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw

Road, Independence Township. (rock) (810) 377-0100

SMILE SCOTT
Big Fish, 100 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (blues) (313) 336-6350

YOUTH CORPS
With Downers Grove and Dresden at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (rock) (313) 996-8553

VELOCITY BAR
With Sunny Day Real Estate at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (313) 961-4617

THE BOB BOLLERS
With Neurosis and 13 at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-7680

Thursday, June 30

ACQUATIC MOOHA
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (blues/alternative) (313) 996-8553

JAMES WASHIN
O'Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (blues) (810) 334-7411

See IN CONCERT, 9A