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Scarecrow plays a different kind of sound

By Nick Charles
special writer

DEFINITELY OUTSTANDING in its field is Scarecrow, a Detroit-area group with a style not common to local bands.

Timothy Cohan, 24, of Bloomfield Hills; Rich Millett, 25, of West Bloomfield, and Steve Hines, 32, of Sterling Heights have released a 45-rpm disc recorded at Superside Studios, Detroit, in a session last summer that began one midnight and lasted to 8 a.m.

The record features guitarist/keyboardsist Cohan's "To Whom It Won't Concern" and lead vocalist/drummer Millett's "Any Time of Day."

Scarecrow has a clean pop sound reminiscent of many '60s bands such as the Moody Blues, the Beatles, the Rascals and even early Beach Boys. "Any Time of Day" is an uptempo acoustic number with Paul Simon-influenced guitar, prominent bass and very active drums.

MILLETT, WHO was born in England, describes "Any Time of Day" as "a pop/reggae tune with simple lyrics. It's about someone looking for a love."

"To Whom It Won't Concern" is rhythmic and contains a lead guitar part that jumps out at you. "Our single is fairly representative of what

'I'm tired of lyrics that just have to do with sex. Rock gets a bad name because not enough people care about the music.'

—Rich Millett
lead vocalist/drummer, Scarecrow

we do," Cohan said, "but we also do some harder rock and softer acoustic numbers."

"One thing I want the people to know about the record," Hines said,

"is that there's too much hard rock around here. Our record doesn't sound local, it's reggae-ish rock or light rock. It doesn't really sound like the Beatles but it does use that kind of technique. Also, the lyrics will make you think."

"I'm tired of lyrics that just have to do with sex," Millett said. Rock gets a bad name because not enough people care about the music."

Cohan and Millett, who write the majority of the group's material, attended Andover High School together and later shared a dorm at Central Michigan University. "We used to cut classes to write songs together," Cohan said with a laugh.

MEMBERS OF Scarecrow all have day jobs but would like to give

them up soon for the music. "I just love music," Hines said. "It's a life's dream."

Scarecrow was born when Cohan and Millett grew tired of playing in other bands. In high school they had an eight-piece jazz band called Napoleon in the style of the popular group Chicago. Cohan and Millett had the concept for Scarecrow even

before Hines was added to the group three years ago.

"Rich was playing in a bar band in which Steve was the bass player," Cohan said. "After that band broke up we all hit it off so well that we formed Scarecrow."

Scarecrow is presently looking for a fourth member to play keyboards so Cohan can concentrate on guitar. "Once we start playing live we're also going to need another drummer," Cohan said, "because Rich will be doing mostly lead vocals."

"Steve is really the main reason we'll play live," Millett said, "because he really wants to."

"WE'LL PROBABLY play a lot of rock 'n' roll live," Hines said, "but we'll calm it down in the studio."

"I want our show to be more lights and subtleties than most bands," Millett added.

The problem Scarecrow has had with playing live is that its music is just too diverse. "Our variety has



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Scarecrow is Rich Millett (left), Steve Hines and* Timothy Cohan. The band has a recorded a single, featuring one song written by Cohan and another by Millett.

been one of our major problems," Cohan said. "People at bars want rock, punk or folk but not a variety."

"And a band should be versatile," Hines said.

"The first thing they ask you is who you sound like," Cohan said. "We always say, 'We can name some of our influences, but we don't think we sound like them. I think they want a band who can be easily pigeonholed.'"

Scarecrow's particular style is clear, fresh, original-sounding music that's easy to listen to and sometimes teaches you something about your world, your fellow man or even yourself. It's the kind of music that

just makes you feel good.

"IF I HAD to put a name on it," Cohan said, "I would say it's melodic pop with a hard edge and thoughtful lyrics."

Scarecrow's music spans the Latin-flavored, danceable and humorous "Psychology" to the romantic and mellow "Out There." On the latter tune the beautiful and full voice of Millett is accompanied by pretty keyboards and a very Top-40 style (this tune is too good to stay in the closet).

Songs like "Before" and "Taffy Pull" have the rawness and off-tempo beat of old black-and-white silent movies or Blondie and Dagwood shows. It's these Scarecrow songs

that create the fun feeling and summertime excitement of old Beach Boys tunes.

The friendly lyrics and smooth harmonies of "Welcome to My House" remind the listener of the acoustic group America but still have that Scarecrow originality. We can't leave out the extremely contagious tenor sax solo at the end of "We Got Trouble" and innovative sound effects such as those in "Do You Know Where Your Children Are?"

Hopefully, Scarecrow will be bringing its brand of exciting music to the public soon. "Keep your ears open," said Millett who's anxious for the public to join in on the fun. "We'll be around pretty soon."

'Our variety has been one of our major problems. People at bars want rock, punk or folk but not a variety.'

—Timothy Cohan
guitarist-keyboardist

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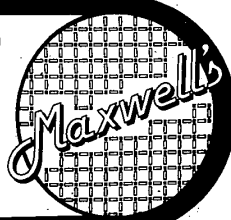
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