# Entertainment

Thursday, July 14, 1988 O&E



## Musical hilarity

### He sings of the 'fudgies,' raps about the Pistons

Special writer

EARS AGO, when Edwin and Joan Riley of Birmingham were blessed with one of their stores, they couldn't have guessed in their wilded the statement of their wilded the statement of the statement o

commercial sales representative for Uniglobe.)

Give him a guitar and an audi-ence, and he's not necessarily so laid-back. That could be the reason management at Cobo Joe's, 422 Com-gress, Octrolt, bills his act as "Out-rageous Musical Hilarity."
It's a hard act to describe. Even Ritley has difficulty describing it.

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"I'VE NEVER really been able to
say what I do," he sald. "I always
toll people, "It's a potpourri of everything, "It's a lot of oldics, some new
stuff. . . a little bit of what Weird
Al does, changing the lyrics to songs
.. some original songs,"
Basically, here's what is Important to him: "I put myself in the audience's seat," he sald causully, "I
don't want to see somebody up there
that's really into themselves, selfcentered, not worried about the audience. I want to know what the audience. I want to know what the audience wants. And I think that's my
strength."
"I play an Ovation six-string gultar, which is an acoustic electric,

strength."
"I play an Ovation six-string gui-tar, which is an acoustic electric, and I use a Roland drum machine."

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- Shawn Riley

He talked about his singing and gultar playing. "My voice isn't bad. They're a lot better out there, and there's a lot better gultarists." After struggling to find the right words, he said. "But I think the combination of everything is what — it might sound egotistical — but I think it's what makes me unique from a lot of other

acts."

Oh, there is one more instrument he plays. With a smile, he said, "And then I play the 'lip trumpet,' which is just a trumpet noise I play with my mouth."

mouth."

The music that he plays and sings comes from such artists as Crosby, Sillis and Nash, Harry Chapin, James Taylor, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley, Del Shannon, Dion, Buddy Holly and Kenny Loggins, He plays hits of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and sometimes '80s.

SOME OF THE songs he performs are his own. One of his favorities is "Marathon Girl," which was written for his wile, Doreen. The idea of "marathon" comes from their second date, which lasted about 13 hours.

By the way, "We Are the Fudgles" is really a takeoff on the song "We Are the World."

"A couple of weeks ago I had the "Pistons" Harp that I was doing down at the bar when they (the Detroit Pistons) were involved in the race for the champlouship."

Nelther the rap song nor the song about the "Fudgles" has been

recorded. Recording is something he'd like to do in the future. However, as he put it, "I don't want to write songs just to sell songs." Riley is happy doing what he's doing, on stage, mostly as a sole performer. "Occasionally, I'll have other musicians sit in, a piano player, a bass player. That's rare. It's once every couple momths."

More often he's likely to allow a member of the audience on stage with him. "I let anybody up there, unless they're really drunk. That's my only cutoff — If they're really drunk and the stage of the

If they're bad, it's fun to watch."

RILEY GOT his break when attending Central Michigan University, after graduating from Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Township, in 1976. There was an 10 to 10 t



Shawn Riley, who has a daytime job in South-field, works evenings as an entertainer at Cobo Joe's in downtown Detroit, He's also returning

Riley reflected on what his parents had thought about him taking on an entertainment career. "They weren't thrilled when I started. But now they're my biggest fans. I had to prove it to them that I could do at the provent of the many that I could do it."

Riley will appear at Horn's Gaslight on Wednesday-Saturday,

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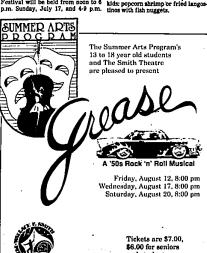
#### table talk

Salvatore Scallopial Restaurant behind Norm's Oyster Bar in Southgency Dearborn. Eighteen Fairlane food and beverage purreyors will to 10 pm. Monday-Thursdays, 11 gather under brightly colored tents and 3-9 pm. Sundays. 11 is a full-zer to offer samples of their specialities and 3-9 pm. Sundays. 11 is a full-zer to the public at prices ranging from the public at prices rangin

### Food festival

The sixth annual Fairlane Food Festival will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 17, and 4-9 p.m.

Red Lobster's fifth annual "Lob-steriest" celebration, featuring 11 lobater specials, cootinues through Sunday, July 31. Prices begin at #8.95. The Lobsterfest menu also in-cludes two 99-cent dinner special for kids: popcorn shrimp or fried langua-tions with lish nuggets.



Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lk. Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48018 One block couth of the I-696 and Orchard Lk. Rd. interchange







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