

STREET BEATS



The Aristobrats are Joe LaFata, (left) drums and percussion; John Vitale, lead vocals and guitar; and John Hughes, keyboards and programming.

Aristobrats march to their own techno-beat

By Larry O'Connor
Staff writer

The Aristobrats go where few Detroit area bands have gone before: To study the galaxy of dance music with today's smart modern technology.

Yes, The Aristobrats are riding the starship techno-dance enterprise.

Samples and computer programming replace riffs and chords in the techno-dance man's vernacular. Geez, and remember when just a guitar and a drum kit used to do the trick.

Techno-dance music has been criticized, especially in rock and roll circles. It's said to be too sterilized, too impersonalized.

Of course, the Aristobrats beg to differ. They make their case for microchip music known.

"I think the technology in the last few years has brought it out of that," said John Vitale, lead singer and guitar player for the three-member group. "Like with drum lines. With the new technology, you can edit and tailor them to your liking."

"With this new technology, we can make a new sound so the drum can never sound the same. Where as a rock band live would sound the same. I would question how someone in a rock band would criticize us for that."

"WE DON'T see it as selling out to technology," added John Hughes of Livonia, who is in charge of keyboards and programming for the group. "We see it as a group... it's our job to entertain the people who watch us."

Members of The Aristobrats appear to be doing their job. The group has already packaged a first-rate demo tape and plays the major venues in the area. Plus, there's dates in Chicago at the Cabaret Metro and The Avalon Club.

The group fancies itself as staunch purveyors of the Euro-sound. Others along the same line would be English dance bands like De'Peche Mode, Erasure and the Bronski Beat.


In the Detroit area, though, that type of music is seldom heard. Nuts and bolts rock and roll is the style here.

The Aristobrats look upon it as just another challenge. One problem for the group is finding places to play in this area. Aside from Saint Andrew's Hall, Taboo and Todd's, there are few dance clubs.


"It's sort of good in a way because there is nobody else doing this type of music," said Hughes, a graduate of Redford Catholic Central High School. "So you get a lot of attention. You do have a lot of people in Detroit who like the European sound, which no one is capitalizing on."

THE ARISTOBRAITS did, forming six months ago. Hughes was in a number of pop bands at Western Michigan University. Drummer Joe LaFata and Vitale had their own new music project going.

The Aristobrats will perform on Sunday, Aug. 14, at Taboo in Detroit. For more information, call 567-6140.



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LOCAL

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on "Contamination and Corrosion," a show, hosted by Rick Anderson, heard from 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays on WORB-FM 90.3

1. "This Perfect Example," Slaughterhouse.

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2. "Oh Well," Holy Cows.
3. "All the Heroes," The Generals.
4. "Eyepatch," The Orange Roughies.
5. "Suranland," Tanjet Image.
6. "Flies of the Marketplace," Colorful Trauma.
7. "Ratt Trap," Skraps.
8. "Chia Pet Rodeo," Flash Rising.
9. "Justice," Hysterie Narcotics.
10. "Terminal City," Shock Therapy.

CD

Here are the 10 top-selling compact discs at Musiland in the Livonia Mall.

1. "Appetite for Destruction," Guns N' Roses.
2. "Temple of Love," Crowded House.
3. "Now and Zen," Robert Plant.
4. "Dirty Dancing Soundtrack," various artists.
5. "Savage Amusements," Scorpions.
6. "Out of the Blue," Debbie Gibson.
7. "Stop Making Sense," Talking Heads.
8. "Dark Side of the Moon," Pink Floyd.
9. "Open Up and Say Ahhh," Poison.
10. "So Far, So Good, So What?," Megadeth.

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