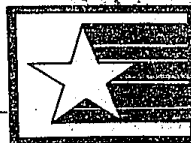


Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, April 27, 1989 O&E

(O&E)



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Audition time

Seven area boys auditioned recently for the role of a bratty 10-year old in the Birmingham Theatre production of the comedy "The Nerd." Shawn Jonaitis of Rochester Hills (right) was one of two boys selected to alternate in the role. The other (not pictured) was David Shanaman of Southfield. (Left) Ian Kessler of Birmingham reads for the role. All the boys who tried out are experienced young actors. "The Nerd" will open Tuesday, May 16, and run through Sunday, June 18. Jonaitis also is appearing in the Michigan Opera Theatre production of "Carmen" in May at Detroit's Masonic Temple.



What's-his-name helps make Firehouse fun



Minimalist band Firehouse features the newest member, Ed Crawford (left), along with more familiar faces, George Hurley

and Mike Watt. Firehouse will play at 10 p.m. Friday at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit.

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

He's called Ed Who, Ed Whatjamacallit and Ed Fromohio. Compared to his fellow Firehouse mates, guitarist Ed Crawford is quite an unknown entity.

So smack them upside the head with your American Express card or something. Tell 'em who you are, Edward.

"My dad was the music director at our high school," said Crawford, introducing us to his family.

"He's probably a little baffled by it all. I can tell he's not too sure what's going on. He offers suggestions like, 'Why don't you use your picture on the cover of your album?'"

If Firehouse did, people would point to the easily recognizable faces of George Hurley and Mike Watt and then say, "Who's he?" But without Crawford, the Firehouse would have never unraveled into one of the most enjoyable minimalist bands on the circuit.

Hurley and Watt were two-thirds of the famed punk outfit, The Minutemen. A van accident killed the group's lead singer, D. Boon, and The Minutemen went into permanent mourning.

Enter Ed Crawford, a big fan of The Minutemen from Toronto, Ohio.

CRAWFORD WENT out to California and convinced Watt and Hurley to give it a second try under the name Firehouse. With that, the band

'Punk is not a particular genre of music... it's an attitude more than anything.'

— Ed Crawford

went into the studio and recorded "Fromohio" (SST Records).

Though he's a new face, Crawford fits right in. He sounds much like Watt and Hurley when discussing the music they play, which has been described as punk, though the latest album has a rural feel to it, at times.

"I have a hard time dealing with that handle (punk)," said Crawford, who attended Ohio State University.

"I think we share the spirit but music has nothing to do with it. Punk is not a particular genre of music... it's an attitude more than anything."

AN ATTITUDE that — for the exception of a few groups like Samia Youth and Firehouse — appears to have dried up. In Firehouse's case, a fusion of jazz, blues and funk takes place on stage. Their music has been described as three guys on one continual solo.

In Firehouse, less appears to be more. The band goes the stripped-down route to bring the real

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