



The Sea Monkeys emerged after an open-mike night at the Cross Street Station.

Monkey see, Sea Monkeys do

Area band applies laid-back approach

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Formed partly through a friendship at a beer store, the Sea Monkeys are indeed a strange brew.

The lanky guitarist, bandana on his head, strides in well-past interview time. A pack of Merit cigarettes are presented on the table as his tardy slip.

"Sorry about the late thing," said Dan Brooks, pulling up a chair.

Polite to a fault, the Sea Monkeys are a three-man band that seeks neither to offend or alienate. Their music is cover-oriented with a sprinkling of originals.

The sound is guitar-driven rock'n'roll with Brooks carrying a cat-at-the-canary grin throughout the set. He's paired with lead singer Nick Jones, who approaches the microphone cautiously like it's a foe to be conquered.

He belts out some industrial strength wails.

Then there is the drummer, Doug Andrews, who we know little about. Andrews arrived just before show-time, having had to attend class that night.

So here's a little Sea Monkey History 101.

The band emerged nearly a year ago, performing at an open mike night at the Cross Street Station in Ypsilanti. The group originally had seven members, now there are three.

With a pair of college students and a former member of the U.S. Air Force, who could ask for a more lively group. Andrews and Jones grew up together in St. Joseph, Mich.

"THAT'S HERE," said Brooks, putting up his hand and pointing to the lower right of his palm.

Thank you for the geography les-

son. The hand of the Andrews and Jones friendship went beyond music.

"Doug's dad was the priest who baptized me," said Jones, who was christened in the Episcopal Church.

Contrary to the often heard advice of go west, the Jones-Andrews tandem headed east — to Ann Arbor. Jones managed a beer store where he met Brooks, who served in the Air Force after graduating from Ypsilanti High School.

Brooks played guitar; Jones played bass. The two decided to get together to make some music.

"It went terrible," Jones said. "We have nothing in common musically. We still don't."

"It was horrible actually," added Brooks later. "Finally, we packed up and blew it off for a week or two. Then we got together in a little room and started writing this song. There was about seven of us. Something clicked."

Clickity click? No, more like click. The band became a regular at the Cross Street Station, an establishment that is across the street from Eastern Michigan University.

THINGS WENT well enough to land gigs at Club Heidelberg in Ann Arbor, Grill's Grill in Pontiac, and on this night, at Paycheck's Lounge in Hamtramck.

"When I first got on stage, I was scared," Brooks said. "I guess it was like that unknown thing."

Nervous on this night? No, more like hyper as the band is about to open for the Volebeats. The group stays a steady course of hard rock favorites from Living Colour and a handful of other bands.

Original material was fleeting. Jones said the group has about 20 songs in the can, still needing to "hack" them out in rehearsal.

One song, "History," is showcased. Lyrically, the number draws the equation between American involvement in Vietnam and Nicaragua. The reggae-infused nugget was the first song the band had written together.

The political bent shouldn't be surprising. The wordsmith of the band is a political science/philosophy major at EMU.

The Sea Monkeys will perform on Friday, Nov. 10, at the Cross Street Station in Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-5650.

IN CONCERT

- **MUDHONEY**
Mudhoney will perform on Monday, Oct. 23, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **HOODOO GURUS**
Hoodoo Gurus will perform on Monday, Oct. 23, at the Nectarine Ballroom, Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **JUNK MONKEYS**
Junk Monkeys will perform on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **IOVLL ROOMERS**
Iovll Roomers will perform on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **SCREAMING FREAKS**
Screaming Freaks will perform with guests, The Widens, on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 1115 N. Main, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.
- **TRINIDAD TRIPOLI**
Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band will perform on Thursday, Oct. 26, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **MAP OF THE WORLD**
Map of the World will perform on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **GEORGE BEDARD**
George Bedard and the Kingpins will perform on Friday, Oct. 27, at Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, between Michigan and Ford, Dearborn. For information, call 846-5377.
- **VOLEBEATS**
Volebeats will perform with guests, Moonmen, on Friday, Oct. 27, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2318 Canfield, off I-75. For information, call 999-9760.
- **FRANK ALLISON**
Frank Allison and the Odd Sox will perform on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **MEGA MEGA**
Mega Mega will perform with guests, Final Warning, on Friday, Oct. 27, at Blossoms, West Seven Mile Road, east of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call 535-8168.
- **CUPPA JOE**
Cuppa Joe will perform on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28, at Skylight, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. For information, call 334-9292.
- **JEANNIE & THE DREAMS**
Jeannie & The Dreams will perform on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **MERCY RULE**
Mercy Rule will perform with guests, Jazi Thunder, Infect, Odyssey, Broken Stone and Something Awful, on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Blossoms, West Seven Mile, east of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call 535-8168.
- **JOANNA CONNOR**
Joanna Connor and her Blues Masters will perform on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Sully's, 4756 Greenfield, between Michigan and Ford, Dearborn. For information, call 846-5377.
- **THE WALLERS**
The Wallers will perform on Sunday, Oct. 29, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **TIMBUK 3**
Timbuk 3 will perform two shows on Monday, Oct. 30, at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Show times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **DODEANS**
The Dodeans will perform on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the Royal Music Theatre.
- **K.D. LANG**
K.d. Lang will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **SOUNDGARDEN**
Soundgarden will perform on Sunday, Nov. 5, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- **CAMPER BEETHOVEN**
Camper Van Beethovens will perform at 10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, at the Nectarine Ballroom, 510 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$11.50 in advance. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **PIXIES**
The Pixies will perform with guests, the Zulus, on Thursday, Nov. 16, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.



Mudhoney, a band on the Sub Pop label, will perform tonight at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor.

LIVE

THE VOLEBEATS

— Paycheck's Lounge Hamtramck

An older man is walking around asking anyone to dance with him. His breath smells like he gargles with garlic and rinses with water from Boston Harbor. Nary a tooth in his mouth.

We say no, even though it's the best offer we've had all night.

Then a guy with a wooden box walks up and asks if we want our shoes shined. Sorry my friend, the Reeboks wouldn't look good with shoe polish on them.

Could this be a dream? I ask myself. Am I in Tupelo, Miss., instead of Hamtramck?

Look toward the door, yes, that's Gracie vigilantly guarding the entrance. And, indeed, the Diet Coke in my glass is real.

But it comes to me. Must be the band onstage blowing that cosmic

backwoods bebop our way has brought out all these country bumpkins.

Might we expect an old tire to roll down the middle of the bar at any moment?

No telling when the Volebeats are onstage. The band chugged through a 14-song set followed by a two-number encore, featuring many tunes from its forthcoming album and renditions of classics by Hank Williams, Jr., Webb Pierce, Cousin Al and Johnny Cash.

THE VOLEBEATS are not only about music — which we might say is damn fine in itself — but rather about setting a mood. The second hand on the clock moves slower, voices carry like the wind.

Without a doubt, the Volebeats are

country. But not the slicked back Nashville brand where fashion is the badge.

Their music moves in perfect timing to the tumbleweed blowing in the desert. It's stark, yet a bunch of twigs whittled with a jackknife into a bouquet of roses.

Live, one the Volebeats' biggest assets is the multidimensional nature of their show. Jeff Oakes does a majority of the singing, but gives way on an occasion to Matthew Smith and Mark Niemanski. The Smith-Niemanski guitar combo admirably switch from electric guitars to slide steel without missing a note.

Of course, there is the rhythm section of Mike Murphy on drums and Brian Oakes on stand-up bass that provides the smoke to the beat. Rebecca Kaplan plays a nice red bow on top of the package on violin, or is it a fiddle in this case?

Once the Volebeats get rolling, they are difficult to stop. Only for one moment does the band let the steam out for a slow, haunting number, "She's Gone," sung by Jeff Oakes.

THE MOOD moves further folksy when a blonde woman from out of nowhere grabbed a tamborine and began banging away on "Fulsom Prison." She later sat down on the corner of the stage for the next number, "Texas."

One the more endearing qualities about this outfit is the free form procedure on stage. Members argued on what would be the last number of the set before settling on Hank Williams' "Long Gone Lonesome Blues."

The two-song encore featured an instrumental. By then, even the old man gave up looking for a dance partner.

— Larry O'Connor

COLLEGE

Here are the top-10 albums on WAYN-AM, campus station at Wayne State University.

1. "Maniacs of the Motor City," various artists.
2. "King Swamp," King Swamp.
3. "Dine," P.A.L.
4. "On Day & the Nights," On Day & the Nights.
5. "Smokin' Banana Peels," Dead Miker.
6. "Hog or Die," Nitros and Raper.
7. "Dol," Happy Flowers.
8. "Nave Art," Red Flag.
9. "Love & Buckles," Love & Rockets.
10. "Return of the Ugly," Bad Mazaers.

LOCAL

Here are the top-10 songs on "Detroit Music Scene," which is heard 4-5 p.m. Sundays (repeated 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays) on WDR-FM 90.9.

1. "Hamtramck," Terminal White.
2. "Scary, Scary," Jerry Vile.
3. "Love Lets You Live," Industrial Dance.
4. "And My Love," Antifashion.
5. "Arcturus," Sygal.
6. "Foot Prints," Sensative Big Guys.
7. "Megatropolis," Warward.
8. "Slick Chain," Phineas Gage.
9. "Attitude," Idiots.
10. "Kiss God For Me," Art School.

REVIEWS

BREAK OF HEARTS

— Katrina and the Waves



track with its big beat and massive harmonies. Not surprisingly, it is the band's biggest hit since you-know-what.

The rest is competent, if not as memorable. Kansas-born Katrina Leskanich is a good vocalist — imagine Wynona Judd more heavily steeped in rock. Her British-based Waves play loudly, but avoid heavy metal cliches or soggy pop bombast.

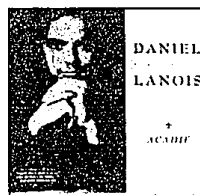
"Can't Tame My Love" and "Rock Myself to Sleep," the album's closing track, move into Joan Jett territory — a wise move. While not a major player on either the pop scene or heavy metal radio, Jett's hook-laden rock has nonetheless found its niche. At the very least, it's enabled her to keep her career afloat. And career viability is something Katrina and the Waves desperately seek.

The hope here is that they succeed.

— Wayne Peal

ACADIE

— Daniel Lanois



Daniel Lanois has come to prominence over the past few years because of his production credits. His most notable achievement was co-producing U2's "Joshua Tree" LP with Brian Eno. Since then, he has produced a fine album from the Neville Brothers and recently, the latest one from Bob Dylan, which is quite powerful, according to all reports.

Here, Lanois steps out from behind the desk to go the other side of the studio console. His is quite an accomplished singer and guitar player that has no doubt accounted for his understanding of other artists' motivations when producing.

Canadian by birth, he shows his Gaelic heritage on this LP with a lot of the vocals being sung in French. This, combined with his "folk" style of songwriting and use of acoustic guitars and accordions, sometimes gives this LP a "Gaelic" feel, particularly at the beginning of side one.

Whether for this reason or the strength of the songs, these songs are the best on the LP.

— Cormac Wright

THE HEALER

— John Lee Hooker



What can you say about a legend of American music? You don't say anything. You just listen.

This latest effort from the blues great is something to behold. The twang from the guitar, the growl from the man have been a major influence on a great number of musicians like Pete Townshend, Bob Dylan, Bono of U2 and the list goes on and on.

Some of Hooker's most ardent admirers step forward and lend a hand on the LP. Carlos Santana, Robert Cray, Bonnie Raitt, Los Lobos, George Thorogood, Canned Heat and Charlie Musselwhite accompany him.

The result is some taut and enjoyable blues music. Like, for instance, the Latin rock flavor provided by Santana takes a sparse, urban blues number, "The Healer," and paints it in several different musical shades.

Bonnie Raitt jumps in right on cue with Hooker in "I'm in the Mood," providing the right harmony to Hooker's guitar work.

— Larry O'Connor

In other songs, one can sense almost a timidity from the great artist. Perhaps it's an over effort not to step into Hooker's territory. Or, maybe it's a case of simply being in awe of Hooker. After all, the man is a legend.

Such acingly is the case with Robert Cray in "Baby Lee." This has all the excellent makings of the classic pupul and the master play, a chance to hold up the rock style of blues with the traditional.

Instead of coming out on fire, Cray merely trades soul guitar licks with the great. Not bad, but you expect more.

This is a minor disappointment on an otherwise fine album. Hooker has been lauded in every music circle, received citation from the President.

Maybe for once Hooker will reap the benefits of commercial success he so richly deserves. The man and his music has been long overdue. May "The Healer" be the one.

— Larry O'Connor