# Etch 'A' Sketch draws with ska

Ska was the "blue beat" period of besmond Dekker and Prince Busier

prediction about the unknowing repeating the past, this Ann Arbor-based outfit revels in ska history. "(Ska) Is like a lifestyle," said lead singer Pat Avsharian.

of the 1959s.

Ska was the "To-tone" era of English Beat and the Specials in the early 1980s.

Ska list the third generation of playclass energized by punk and defining
a sound for the 1990s.

Ska is here. Ska is there. Ska is
the '80s.

Ska is here. Ska is there. Ska is the 80s. everywhere.
So say members of Etch 'A' A love of ska led keyboardist RaSketch, a new group of purveyors of the traditionally upbeat dance music. Contrary to Santayana's grim of the sketch this past summer.

IN A SHORT time, Eich 'A Sketch has become a regular on the Detroit Ann Arbor club circuit while venturing out to such metropolis' as foronto and Chicago. An abandoned pornoto and the latest of the state of the latest of the latest

unquestioned.
"I think a lot of the bands now are

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### IN CONCERT

DOUBLE AA POBBE
 Double AA Posse, a rap group from
Ann Arbor Ploncer High School, will perform an all-ages show 7-11 pm. Monday,
Jan 14, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann
Arbor. For information, call 196-8555.

RYTH MCFUED
Ryth McFued will perform Tuesday,
Jan 15, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann
Arbor. For information, call 998-2747.

HANNIBALB
 Hannibals will perform Tuesday, Jan.
 Its, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

At Hill AND THE HEADLIGHTS
 Al Hill and the Headlights will perform Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Rick's Cafe, 611
Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• TYPHOID MARY
Typhoid Mary will perform with guests, John Housley, Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor For information, call 996-8555

CULTURE BANDITS
 Culture Bandits will perform with
guests, Blue Nimbus, Thursday, Jan. 17,
at 3-D Club, 1815 N. Main, north of 12
Mile Road, Royal Oak. For information,
call 589-348.

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
 Assembly Required will perform
Thursday, Jan 17, at Club Heidelberg,
215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information,
call 994-3562

HUNTUNES
 Huntunes will perform Thursday, Jan.
17. at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor For information, call 996-2747.

RYTH MCFUED/JUICE

Byth McFued will perform for student happy hour from 6-9 pm Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Ar-bor Juice will perform from 9-30 p.m. to 2 a.m. For information, call 996-8555

JOHNNY QUEST
 Johnny Quest will perform Friday.
Jan 18. at the Hamtramck Pub. 2048
Caniff. off 1-75 For information, call 365-3829.

BELL BIV DEVOE
 Bell Biv Devoe will perform along with
Johnny Gill, Keith Sweat and Monic Love
8 pm Friday, Jan. 18, at The Palace of
Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$40 gold circle
and \$25 for reserved. For information,
call 377-0100.

PAUL KELLER & COMPANY
 Paul Keller & Company will perform
 Friday and Saturday, Jan. 18-19, at Bird
 of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
 For information, call 562-8310

· ASH CAN VANGOGH

LOCAL

Ash Can Vandodar Ash Can Vandogh will perform Friday. Jan 18. at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, near 1-94, Detroit For information, call 832-2355.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
 Strange Bedfellows will perform Fri-

Better Days," The Gear
Only a Picture," Knaves
Sway Like a Bred, "Handbals
Skay Here," Missionary Stew
Teacher, Teacher," Dawn
Back on My Feet," Detroit Blues

6 "Back on and Band of "Undead," Dark Theater 7 "Undead," Dark Theater 8 "Seen and Not Heard," Inside Out 9 "Pain of It All," Blee Nimbas 10 "Serenity," Thirriy Forest Animals

day, Jan. 18, at Lill's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. Por informa-tion, call 875-6555.

tion, call \$75-6555.

© COMMUNITY CONCERTS
Earth Community Concert will take place 7,30 p.m. to 2 s.m. Friday, J.m. to 3 s.m. Friday S.m. to 3 s

• FRANK ALLISON AND THE OOD SOX Frank Allison and the Odd Sox will per-form Friday, Jan. 18, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For informa-tion, call 994-3562.

CLARENCE 'GATEMOUTH' BROWN Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown will per-form Friday, Jan. 18, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

ANNE BE DAVIS
 Anne Be Davis will perform Friday,
Jan 18, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann
Arbor. For Information, call 996-8555.

SPEAKER'S CORNER
 Speaker's Corner will perform with guests, Splitters, Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Hamtramck Pub. 2048 Caniff, off 1-75. For information, call 365-3829.

ONYX WORLD BEAT

Onyx World Beat will perform Satur-day, Jan. 19, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, near I-94. Detroit. For information, call 832-2355

TRASH BRATS
 Trash Brats will perform Saturday, Jan 19, at Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, off Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. For information call 875-6555.

THE GEAR
 The Gear will perform with guests, The Pedestrians, Saturday, Jan. 19, at Club Enti, 29451 John R, near 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights. For information, call 544-1298.

MOL TRIFFID/TRUNCHEONS Mol Triffid will perform along with Truncheons Saturday, Jan. 19, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor, For information, call 994-3562.

\*\* TROPICAL CONNECTION
Tropical Connection will perform Saturday. Jan. 19. at Rick's Cafe, 611
Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747

URBATIONS
 Urbations will perform Saturday, Jan.

 19, at the Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor For information, call 996-8555.

CUTTING Here are the top-10 songs on "Detroit Music Scene," which is aired 6-5 p.m. Sundays (repeated 5-30-6-30 p.m. Tues-days) on WDTR-FM 90-9 **EDGE** 

Here are 10 LPs in beavy rotation on "The Cutting Edge," which is beard 8 pm. to 3 a.m. nightly on CIMX-FM 88.7.

"Ritual de lo Habitual," Jane's Addie-

Gola, Lash
"Gola," Lash
"Brick by Brick," Igry Pop
"X," INXS
"Mixed Up," The Cure
"Heart-Shaped World," Carls Isaak
"Cake," Trash Can Sinatras
"Bona Drag," Mortiney
"Hell's Dick," The Pogyes
"One Simple Word," The Connells

# abocial writer A local band called The Big Picture recently won the Marlboro National Tallent Roundup. Bands from around the country submitted demo tapse in order to be considered for the regional finals in their area. Eight finalists were then selected nationwide. Their last round was in Nashville, Tenn, last month. The Big Picture took the win — 40 hours, studio time and a \$30,000 cash prize. The Big Picture is delf Scott, lead vocals, fluntington Woods; Duane Harlick, guitar and yocals, Royal Oak, Mike Hynes, bass. Royal Oak, Andy Combs, drums, Pontiac; Skip Prutt, saxophone, Detroit, Todd Ague, keyboards and backing vocals, Royal Oak. "Any good band can go on stage and make REVIEWS

The Big Picture is Jeff Scott, lead vocals. Duane

Harlick, guitar and vocals,

Mike Hynes, bass, Andy Combs, Skip

Pruitt. saxophone, Todd Ague,

#### HELL'S DITCH - The Pogues

Shane MacGowan may or may not be in bad shape, but he continues to write terrific songs and the band continues to make good music. "Helf's Ditch," the band's latest release is very good indeed.

In it, MacGowan shows again that he can write a lyrie as well as anybody, life is probably better known, body, life is probably better known, or life in the life of life of the life of life of the life of life o



gues I few years back and produced plenty of received with his former band, the Clash.

By now, the Pogues seem to have polished their raw sounds just enough. The hand blends its punk roots with traditional Celtic sounds. Accordion, mandolin and tin whistle are often more prominent than electric guitars. They are likely to launch into their own arrangement of a traditional time, as they do here with the lovely "Madrin Rua."

Much of the band's appeal and fame stems from the ornery MacGowan, the one with the bad teeth, growing over all and talent with a pen. On "Hell's Ditch," he seems to be raising hell less and seeking refuge more. There are hints of redemption or, at least, resignation here too, lest we despair,

"Figally found a place they could never reach Sipping Singha beer on Pattuya Beach," he sings in "House of the Gods." If it is refuge he wants, give him refuge.

#### HACK — Information Society

Big Picture wins in Marlboro Country

great sounding muste, but we took that muste and turned it into a show atmosphere..., putting on a connect for people at the they were not just listering to muste, out the state of the st

PRUIT ROCKS the house with his wieldy sax solos. Hynes commands a mean six-string slap bass. Harlick plays his ploose with case and conviction. Combs. Juston background melds in perfectly on the drums. Ague's tra-level keybeard actup is used com-

with a captains backup occalist New York Valequen, on where they got the name. In this computer age, sound information Society is a band out of Minneapolis, Minn Their sound is a higheten huishmash, that for the most part, sounds pleasing, and upbeat They call their style of music Kraftwerk and Fonk 1 than that for margon. Society well a formation Society well and formation. Society well and or margon Society with the company of the industrial formation of the industrial formation. Society of the following of the industrial formation of the industrial fore



pletely and to jazzy perfection. Top this all off with Souts's smooth, seltry vocats and what have you get? Well. I think you get the picture. The Big Picture. The Big Picture. The Big Picture of the only bands in fown that is pretty cohesive in its feets? Ague said. "We do a good variety of music and we always put our own signature to each arrangement." But things weren't always so smooth sating asplatined flatrick.

asplained Hartick. Their aren't many places that accept what we do? In each We've played at some clubs that expected to hear us play techno-pop dance muste, with a lot of rap, worky, wicky, wicky, widy, and seratching records. That was bad news, cause that's not what we do? You can check them out for yourself and see what it is they do, at Corrad's AC, in Troy where they perform most weekends.

22, cuts on it But, only 10 of those songs have a lyrical content to them Minch of the album is a collage of sound effects and audio warrary. In long, there may be a bit too much income the songs, they're readly integred. Instead of sides A and B, there is, all the "Gilligand Side" and the "Skipper Side". Thus, on the Skipper Side of the collection, the large keeks off the second side with an interesting sound collage called "Bard Currency".

Another song called "Can't Slow.

Cottage catted "Hard Currency"
Another song called "Can't Slow
Down" is a lively dance number. I
like the saxuphone selo.
On the lighter side, "Now That 1
Have You' is one of their, more dulcet contributions. It also sounds,
good.

Whore a lot of bands have come of toes 'sounding empty, and incom-ple to under such circumstances, In-to-mation Society seems to pull this off quite well.

dames S Hoffmann

# THE IMMACULATE COLLECTION

## - Madonna

Ok. I give up No more criticism of Madonna out of this corner. Period

By now, this Rochester Hills lass is well beyond any meaningful criticism anyway She's a force of nature; like Yellowstone, Niagra Falls, Tellys, She's a growth industry, Tellys, She's a growth industry, No. 1998. The She's a growth industry, You know all these songs, too, From the bouncy "Like a Virgin" to the sinky "voque", almost said were No. I, top-of-the-pops, Casey Kasemapproved chartbusters.

And if you don't know the two new songs, you soon will. The ainewy "Justify My Love" just reached No. I taided no doubt by its steamy MTV-banned video). "Rescue Me," the other new track, seems destined to follow.



And if you don't know the two new songs, you soon will. The ainewy clustify My Love" just reached No. 1 caided no doubt by the steamy MTV-banned video). The seems destined to follow. What's really significant about this collection is that it is among the first najor artist albums (Madonna's almost-linocent early hits, such as intrincipant artist albums (Madonna's almost-linocent early hits, such as among the first to release an all-discribed in the new "Q Sound" (Madonna's almost-linocent early hits, such as among the first to release an all-discribed in the such as "Express Yourself" is riversial—is supposed to make CDs sound even rehear and fuller. There's not definitely proof here as to whether Q sound will eath on, but Madonna's dance beat hits do sound.