

STREET BEATS

Benefit attracts rockers

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

In a fitting tribute to the legacy of Detroit rock'n'roll he helped create, several area musicians are putting together an all-star benefit concert for the family of guitarist Joe Kubert.

The former member of the Detroit Wheels died June 19 of cancer. The concert Sunday at Harpos Concert Theatre, Harper at Chalmers, off I-94, in Detroit will feature a special appearance by Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels. Doors open at 7 p.m. (For information, call 824-1700).

Scott Campbell, Detroit Blues Band, The Rationals with Scott Morgan, The Polish Muslims, Twiggy Barbusi & The Lizards in Jars and the Garfield Blues Band are also scheduled to perform. All proceeds from the concert will go to Kubert's widow and 9-year-old daughter.

"It's important the community supports itself," said Scott Morgan, whose Rationals was another Detroit act making a name for itself in the late '60s. "This is something definitely worthwhile doing."

"It's what the local music scene should be about — being more connected."

Plans include having the show digitally recorded for a live album to be released at a later date along with material Kubert recorded with the Detroit Blues Band.

KUBERT was considered to have had a large role in the Detroit Wheels' sound when the band was



Paying their dues as 13 Engines is Mike Robbins (from left), Grant Ethier, John Critchley and Jim Hughes.

kicking out hits like "Jenny Take a Ride" in the late 1980s.

"He provided that nice little rhythm," said Mitch Ryder, whose friendship with Kubert dated back to junior high school.

Kubert performed with the Detroit Wheels until 1987 when the Vietnam draft derailed the band, according to Ryder. Kubert later hooked up with Jimmy McCarty and the Detroit Blues Band.

Ryder said the two kept in contact and even worked together a couple of times.

"I have very few male friends in my life," said Ryder in a telephone interview. "I definitely count him as one of them."

"After he left the band, we never got close again," Ryder said. "It's sad. We should have been."

Four months on Nagle Street in Hamtramck, let's just say 13 Engines ran wild.

"We didn't do much I tell you that," said John Critchley discussing the band's temporary residence two

years ago. "We watched a lot of TV. We probably drank a lot of beer and wrote a lot of songs."

THE TORONTO-based band returns to the city Aug. 16, headlining at Alvin's in Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m.

13 Engines did time in Detroit in the fall of 1989. The four-member outfit hung out here while their second album for Nocturnal Records, "Byram Lake Blues," was being released.

A majority of those songs, in fact, were written during the band's stay in Byram Lake, Mich. Likewise, a portion of the numbers can be heard on 13 Engines' recent SBK release "A Blur to Me Now."

So does this mean members consider Detroit/Michigan something of a second home? Well... Critchley is the diplomat but he won't go that far.

Instead, the Motor City dwelling is chalked up to the band paying their dues.

"Blur to Me Now" is a back-to-back

slips-in-your-face rock'n'roll album. There isn't an ounce of extraneous guitar matter or pop bombast on this effort.

Part of the credit for that goes to producer David Briggs, who's best known for his work with Neil Young. 13 Engines recorded "Blur to Me Now" in a flat six weeks, rehearsing for awhile at Young's California ranch.

COMPARISONS to Mr. Young are natural, but their validity only comes in the way 13 Engines' streamlined aesthetics when making music.

"If you spend your time in the studio, triggering drum machines it's no longer 13 Engines," Critchley said.

Speaking of studios: Park the Karma in Tempermill Studio, recording their yet-to-be titled debut album for Black Garlic records. The band features members vocalist Lori Wyatt, Jack Smith, Raquel Salasay (formerly of The Trunchboons) and Kerry Gluckman (formerly of Walk the Dogma).

Mol Triffid goes 'western'

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Someone better tell Don McLean that Mol Triffid has gone to catch the last train for the coast. Don't worry, the music hasn't died.

It's just moving.

A farewell dose of vocalist Kurt Serbus' apocalyptic screeds and Kimo Ball's double-barreled guitar will be given Saturday, Aug. 17, at Club Heidelberg in Ann Arbor. Oh, but to see Serbus don the dinner jacket and designer eyeglasses for the last area rendition of "The Devil and Sammy Davis."

Then in one fell swoop, Mol Triffid will be off to San Francisco. They're even taking Bloomfield Hills Lahser graduate/drummer Scott Mast, who replaced John Westernman last September.

Simply put, Mol Triffid has grown tired of the scene here.

"There's not a hell of a lot of places to play," said Kimo Ball, sitting in the living room (we think) of their Ann Arbor apartment with a "For Rent" sign on the door. "Detroit is sad. It's either people loyal to their favorite punk band or apathetic to a Martinian band from Ann Arbor."

There's no bitterness in Ball's voice, just resignation. Mol Triffid accomplished more in three years here than the average bunch of long-haired, power-chord metal churning quartet.

THE BAND'S first single last year, "I Want to See Pretty People Doing Ugly Things," revealed Serbus' penchant for exploring the bleakest realms of the human spirit.

Instead of wariness, the lead singer's trembling screams seemed to revel in the madness as he vividly describes a pathetic creature alone watching porno-

graphic films. Ball's incendiary guitar pieces only made the package more hypnotic. More importantly, the 7-inch single was instrumental in garnering the band an instant following.

Since then, Mol Triffid toured the East Coast and the Midwest region extensively and set up a home base in Ann Arbor. While on the coast, the band recorded a majority of their upcoming release, "Touch the Monkey," in Boston.

The six-song project is 50 minutes long and will be released on (fast becoming extinct) vinyl in the fall.

Among the selections will be a number, "Satin Rules," in which Serbus pokes fun at the hysteria revolving around alleged devil worship. Another song is titled, "William Shatner Sleeps on the Eve of the Harmonic Convergence: He Dreams."

MANY OF the Serbus-penned numbers come from his own twisted perspective of every event. "The Devil and Sammy Davis," for example, was the result of the late singer's biography, which divulged Davis' alleged involvement with the Church of Satan.

Whether a move to the Golden Gate City will lighten up Serbus' songwriting remains to be seen. He wasn't present at the interview.

"He's into the move," said bassist Dave Sahljak.

As, too, are the rest of the band members. For Mast, the relocation is of particular excitement. The drummer always wanted to be a member of Mol Triffid ever since his former band, Pontiac, opened for them at a show in Ann Arbor.

"Kurt has a lot to do with it," Mast said. "So does the music. He has such a presence. He's so intense."

Mol Triffid will perform with guests, Thudpucker, Saturday, Aug. 17, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. Cover is \$4. For information, call 994-3562.



Yes, Kurt Serbus will don the dinner jacket and designer eyeglasses for the last area rendition of "The Devil and Sammy Davis."

Fanzines: From Spirulina to 'Booty'

Fanzines are tiny independent music papers put out by regular people instead of some huge publishing corporation. They're usually cheaply printed on mimeograph paper with crude graphics, a bunch of misspelled words and a casual writing style.

But that's what makes them great. Instead of beginning a record review with phrases like "the thematic elements and poignant tonal quality..." Fanzine writers tend to use sentences like "These boys have plenty of neat-o effects pedals."

Back in the 1960s, alternative magazines were in their heyday and anyone who had something to say would write it down and voila, they were in the publishing biz.

Lately, however, fanzine production — at least in this area — has gone the way of bell bottoms, lava lights and altruistic behavior. A survey of local record stores (the major distribution point for fanzines) revealed that most had zero or at most three copies of local magazines.

Most fanzine producers today have to be well-versed in ad rates and distribution techniques. But there's still a few people, armed with only a copier and something to say, who manage to make their little place in the literary world.

left of center

Jill Hamilton

calls himself Nick Name and his "proofreader, lover and best friend" Spirulina. Although the mag is tiny, it does get around. The mail section in the front of the book has letters from readers as far away as England.

Anyway, New Direction focuses only on music. Mr. Name's taste in tunes runs toward the alternative/college sort. One issue featured interviews with That Petrol Emotion, Snuff and Lovers and Other Monsters as well as live reviews of bands like the Chills and Social Distortion.

But the real body of the magazine consists of "Nick's Picks," a lengthy section of record reviews. Nick's reviews are like listening to that friend of yours who frequents the indie bin at the record store — they're smart and full of obscure music info.

Scattered throughout the text are a bunch of funny/philosophical quotes like Hans Selye's "If you do what you like, you never really work. Your work is your play." or

George Carlin's "I am not a complete vegetarian; I eat only an animal that have died in their sleep."

New Direction only comes out twice a year — in June and December — and can be had by sending \$1.50 to New Direction, 520 N. Ashley, No. 1, Ann Arbor 48103.

Brasneck — It's a music rag with a wicked sense of humor put out by Chip Porter (lead-off hitter, token clump) and Tim Sendra (field general, token group).

They say that their debut issue "generated about as much excitement as a flock of Seagulls reunion," but since Tim is a recent graduate and "doesn't have a job or point in life" and Chip is a worker in a party store where he specializes in stocking canned shrimp, they decided to put out a second issue since they had nothing to do.

The first issue was nearly a masterpiece in "zine-dom." It features a comic about Snuggles the cuddly fabric softener bear having a

bad day and going on a killing rampage, plus two "horror" stories about the tragedy of going bald at a young age written by the two Sendra boys (baldness runs in their family).

The second issue is more music-oriented, but written in the typical Brasneck style. In his review of the Ride LP, for example, Sendra writes: "Reviewing this record makes me feel like an elephant in a drive of daisies or a cement mixer driving over eggshells."

To get your hands on Brasneck, send one buck to Brasneck HQ, 4746 Northgate, Ann Arbor 48103.

Motorbooty — This is a good bet for those of you are interested in Detroit's infamous past music history circa the late '60s-early '70s. The last issue included interviews with Detroit concert poster artist Gary Grishaw and ex-Stooges Ron Aseton, an odd secret history of Detroit rock and a visit to the Stooges Wax Museum.

Also scattered throughout the good-sized mag are a bunch of comics which range from the very good to the nearly indecipherable.

The magazine is blunt, a little offensive and sometimes very funny — a bit like Detroit itself. To get a copy of the latest issue of Motorbooty before it's sold out (all past issues are unavailable), send \$3 to Motorbooty, World-Wide Communications, P.O. Box 7944, Ann Arbor 48107.

IN CONCERT

• **Y.M.I.**
Monday, Aug. 12 — Y.M.I. will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

• **LYNARD SKYWARD**
Tuesday, Aug. 13 — Lynard Skynard will perform with guests, Jeff Healey Band, 8 p.m. at Pine Knob, Saababaw Road, off I-75. Tickets are \$23 for pavilion; \$20 for lawn. For information, call 377-8200.

• **FLAT DUO JEYS**
Wednesday, Aug. 14 — Flat Duo Jey will perform with guests, Chickasaw Mudd Puppies at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

• **M.O.D.**
Wednesday, Aug. 14 — M.O.D. will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• **BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET**
Thursday, Aug. 15 — Brothers from Another Planet will perform at 3-D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.

• **BILLY GOAT**
Thursday, Aug. 15 — Billy Goat will perform with guests, The Brotherhood Reelers, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 961-MELT.

• **ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**
Thursday, Aug. 15 — Assembly Required will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• **ROBERT PALMER**
Thursday, Aug. 15 — Robert Palmer will perform with guest, Deacon Blue, at Pine Knob, Saababaw Road and I-75, Clarkston. For information, call 377-8200.

• **SWINGING RICHARDS**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Swinging Richards will perform with guests, Liarhead and Howdoyados, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

• **DETROIT BLUES BAND**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Detroit Blues Band will perform at Moby Dick's, 5451 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 981-3550.

• **DESTRUCTION RIDE**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Destruction Ride will perform with guests, All You Can Eat, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.

• **GEORGE BEDARD AND THE KINGPINS**
Friday, Aug. 16 — George Bedard and the Kingpins will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

• **GUY CLARK**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Guy Clark will perform 8:30 p.m. at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward. Tickets are \$10. For information, call 540-9031.

• **SUN SOUNDS ORCHESTRA**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Sun Sounds Orchestra will perform on the Bobo Moonlight Cruise. The boat departs 11 p.m. and returns 1 a.m. For information, call 843-0700 or 843-8800.

• **GEORGE BEDARD AND THE KINGPINS**
Friday, Aug. 16 — George Bedard and

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

• **STEVE NARDELLA**
Friday, Aug. 16 — Steve Nardella will perform at Sally's, 4758 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For information, call 846-1920.

• **BILL HED TRIO**
Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16-17 — Bill Hed Trio will perform at Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. For information, call 843-8310.

• **LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO**
Friday, Aug. 16 — LadySmith Black Mambazo will perform with Arrow and Third World at Chase Park Music Theatre in Detroit. Tickets are \$25 for pavilion; \$18.50 for lawn. For information, call 872-1000.

• **THE HANNIBALS**
Friday, Aug. 16 — The Hannibals will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• **DIANA ROSS**
Saturday, August, Aug. 16-17 — Diana Ross will perform 8 p.m. at Pine Knob, Saababaw Road and I-75, Clarkston. Tickets are \$27 for pavilion; \$23 for lawn.

• **CHEVELLES**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — Chevelles will perform on the Bobo Moonlight Cruise. The boat departs 11 p.m. and returns 1 a.m. For information, call 845-0700 or 843-8800.

• **RED C**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — Red C will perform with guests, Spiral Dance, at Exit Club, 29451 John R, Madison Heights. For information, call 544-1296.

• **THE DIFFERENCE**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — The Difference will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

• **TRINIDAD TROPICAL STEEL BAND**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — The Trinidad Tropical Steel Band will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

• **JAMES WALLIN BLUES BAND**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — James Wallin Blues Band will perform at Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. For information, call 278-3340.

• **MOL TRIFFID**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — Mol Triffid will perform with guests, Thudpucker, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.

• **LIBERTINES**
Saturday, Aug. 17, and Sunday, Aug. 18 — Libertines will perform at the Vysland Heritage Festival at 2 p.m. on the dock and at 5 p.m. during the "Talent Show Contest" Saturday. For information, call 483-6071. The band also performs Sunday at the Plymouth Music Festival. For information, call 453-1540.

• **DAN REED NETWORK**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — Dan Reed Network will perform with guests, Saasyrat and Culture Shock, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 961-MELT.

• **BLACK PLANET**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — Black Planet will perform with guests, Spanking Don, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward. For information, call 831-8070.



Another Rough Day?

HELP IS JUST A PUNCH AWAY!

Pressure, Deadlines. The boss continues to breathe down your neck and hover over your desk. Don't tell him to take a hike.

Yelling, Screaming, Fighting. Your off-spring are driving you off your rocker. Don't lock them out and throw away the key.

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CD 102.7-FM, WXCD is Detroit's new radio station. We play the absolute smoothest sounds around. WXCD features music that is relaxing but never boring. Fresh, exciting music. From artists like Kenny G, George Benson, Spyro Gyra, Steely Dan, Paul Simon, Basia, Pat Metheny, Anita Baker and Earl Klugh. The newest music without all the hype and talk.

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