

# STREET SCENE

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Monday, August 28, 1991 O&E

## Chain's future is 'Out'

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

A band on the run? Not in Chain Reaction's case.

Up to this point, the four-man outfit with former Westland residents Eric Harabadian and Bob Drozdowski might be classified as a bunch of shut-ins. Instead of being familiar faces on the club circuit, they have been something like studio monks, busy producing their latest effort, "Out of the Ruins."

The cassette release features a taut combination of 1960-70's experimental hard rock, guitar virtuosity grounded in blues-based rhythms and mixed in with New World sensibilities. Infusions of jazz, reggae and Latin interspersed throughout.

"How I see our sound is we're a rock band who also does blues that is influenced by jazz and world music," said vocalist and guitarist Harabadian.

Er, right. That's what we were trying to say. Anyhow, the buzz phrase here is alternative but commercial.

CHAIN REACTION has spent five years trying to perfect this notion. Live appearances have been limited, though the band is trying to line up dates in September in order to promote "Out of the Ruins." Also in the works is a video special that will appear on local cable outlets.

Already, cuts from "Out of the Ruins" are getting air play on "Detroit Music Scene" and on Judy Adams' show on WDET-FM. College stations such as WHFR-FM at Henry Ford Community College and WORB-FM at Oakland Community College have played selections from the cassette as well.

All of this vindicates members of Chain Reaction, who don't buy into the fashion or the enlightened attitude of an alternative outfit. If anything, they resemble your average Joe musicians sitting in Harabadian's living room.

Familiarity apparently breeds quiet confidence. Harabadian and Drozdowski started jamming together 10 years ago.

Drummer and percussionist John Siliti joined the group three years ago and bassist Max Jardine only a few months ago.

From a progressive base, Siliti and Jardine play a large role. Both have been heavily influenced by world music.

Siliti began to fancy himself as a percussionist a few years ago, draping names like Tito Puente and



Chain Reaction has spent five years coming up with a sound that is both alternative and commercial. The end result is "Out of the Ruins."

Mongo Santa Maria and jazz fusion artist Dave Weckl as heroes.

"I TRIED to imitate (former Led Zeppelin drummer, the late) John Bonham," Siliti said. "I found percussion more absorbing."

Likewise, Siliti's partner in rhythm, Jardine, mentions the names of jazz artists such as Billy Cobham and Jean Luc Ponty.

These world sensibilities are melded with traditional forms of rock'n'roll brought forth by Drozdowski and Harabadian.

"I think the key is we listen to a

wide variety of music. . . We're all coming from a progressive base," Harabadian said. "I've always had eclectic tastes, so in a way, it's a blending of sounds."

Band members say they can pull it off because ego levels are kept to a minimum. Usually, Harabadian brings a rough sketch of a song into rehearsals and the rest of the group helps flesh it out.

Harabadian has a knack for writing ballads and love songs, but his lyrics can take a social commentary as well. The blues-tinged number "Innocence Lost" focuses on run-

ways while "Where's the Beauty" delves into the subject of homelessness.

All of which bear more than a hint of authenticity in their concern. Harabadian is in the process of earning a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and does counseling with children.

But the band members stress they want to keep things entertaining.

"We're in it for the fun of it first and foremost," Drozdowski said. "If you don't love it, you start to hate it and you'll either quit or become a wedding band."



Look for Wayne Toups and Zydecajun at Sully's in Dearborn Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Friday, Aug. 30 — Anson Funderburgh and the Rocketts will perform at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. For information, call 846-5377.

● GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE  
Thursday, Aug. 29 — "Gratefully Yours," a musical tribute to the Grateful Dead by their friends, will take place at Key West, 24230 W. Six Mile, Detroit. The show will feature Merl Saunders, Tom Constantine, original pianist for the Grateful Dead, Kingfish, Steve Kimock from Zero and a special appearance by Papa John Creach. Tickets are \$10. For information, call 592-0909.

● WILD KINGDOM  
Thursday, Aug. 29 — Wild Kingdom will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church,

Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

● WRATH OF CHRISTIAN  
Friday, Aug. 30 — Wrath of Christian will perform with guests, Skin Horse and Missed in Diary, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-4070.

● MARIO BAUZA  
Friday, Aug. 30 — Trumpeter Mario Bauza will bring his Afro-Cuban jazz sounds and his concert orchestra to the Miller Lite Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival at 7:45 p.m. on the Amphitheatre Stage in Hart Plaza. For information, call 259-5400.

● JOHNNY O'NEAL  
Friday-Saturday, Aug. 30-31 — Johnny O'Neal will perform at Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. For information, call 662-8310.

● CAT'S IN THE BASEMENT  
Friday, Aug. 30 — Cat's in the Basement will perform at the Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.

● HARTTIMES BLUES BAND  
Friday, Aug. 30 — Harttimes Blues Band will perform at Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3850.

● STEVE KING AND THE DITTLES  
Friday, Aug. 30 — Steve King and the Dittles 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.

● JON FADDIS  
Friday, Aug. 30, and Sunday, Sept. 1 — Trumpeter Jon Faddis will perform at the 12th annual Miller Lite Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival. He'll perform 9:45 p.m. Friday on the Amphitheatre Stage and 5:30 p.m. Sunday on the Pyramid Stage. For information, call 259-5400.



## STREET SEEN

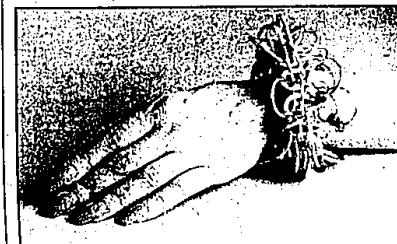
Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 30351 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 953-2131.

## Wordly wrap

Looking for a distinctive wrapping paper with a worldly message? Maybe paper that goes round and round? Introducing Map Wrap. The Apple Wreath in Livonia carries two styles of the wrapping paper, perfect for gifts for the world traveler, Earth-conscious, even the armchair traveler.

For Old World style, there's an antique style map pattern. For up-to-date, world watchers, there's the new world design. Priced at \$1.25 each at the Apple Wreath, 32626 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.



## Jillery Jewelry

Until three years ago, jewelry designer Jill Fagan was a stylist working in films. She received her art education at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Working with aluminum, a light, modern metal that doesn't tarnish, her fresh, bold designs are receiving great attention. The metal, combined with opalescent colored stones or bright glass, gives her work an exciting cosmic quality.

Available at local Jacobson stores, Jill Fagan's aluminum varied designs include rings, earrings and bracelets. Priced \$28-\$88.



## 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.

When life's anxious little moments start to get on your nerves, don't punch a wall. Punch us up. Relax and enjoy.

DETROIT'S NEW RADIO STATION.

**WXCD**  
102.7 FM  
Smooth Sounds

## IN CONCERT

### ● MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

Several area bands will perform Sunday, Sept. 1, a memorial tribute to General's bassist Flip Cherven, 24, who died last week in an automobile accident near Jackson, Gangster Fun, A.I.D., Culture Bandits, Flying Saucers, Grandfellow and Boom and the Rackett are scheduled to appear at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Proceeds from the event will go towards a memorial scholarship in Cherven's name.

### ● HYPERFORMANCE

Monday, Aug. 26 — Hyperformance will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### ● PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM

Monday, Aug. 26 — Paradise Valley Jazz Jam will take place at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.

### ● BORN NAKED

Tuesday, Aug. 27 — Born Naked will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### ● CHISEL BROTHERS

Tuesday, Aug. 27 — Chisel Brothers will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.

### ● BLIND DOG BLUES BAND

Wednesday, Aug. 28 — Blind Dog Blues Band will perform at Key West, 24230 W. Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 592-0909.

### ● STHO

Wednesday, Aug. 28 — Stho will perform at Pine Knob Theatre, 1725 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. Show time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for pavilion, \$20 for lawn. For information, call 377-8200.

### ● SOUTHGONG ZAK

Wednesday, Aug. 28 — Southgong Zak will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

### ● WAYNE TOUPS AND ZYDECAJUN

Wednesday, Aug. 28 — Wayne Toups and Zydecajun will perform at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. For information, call 846-5377.

### ● BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS

Wednesday, Aug. 28 — Big Dave and the Ultrasonics will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

### ● BOOM AND THE RACKETT

Thursday, Aug. 29 — Boom and the Rackett will perform at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.

### ● ELVIN JONES

Thursday, Aug. 29 — Drummer Elvin Jones appears 7 p.m. as the opening night headliner at the 12th annual Miller Lite Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival. Jones is the father of "free improvisation" or "polyrhythmic" drumming style often associated with the avant-garde drummers of the 1960s and early 1970s. For information, call 259-5400.

### ● THE NEIGHBORHOODS

Thursday, Aug. 29 — The Neighborhoods will perform with guest, Michael McDermott, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 961-MEET.

### ● THE WILLIE WISLEY TRIO

Thursday, Aug. 29 — The Willie Wisley Trio will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.

### ● ANSON FUNDERBURGH AND THE ROCKETTS