

STREET CRACKS

Good laugh:
Pam Stone
has found
success as a
stand-up
comic and on
ABC's
"Coach."



Pam Stone has own gold medal dream

By BOB SADLER
STAFF WRITER

With the 1994 Winter Olympic Games over in Norway, the attention shifts to Atlanta, where the world will gather again in 1996. At the risk of revving up the hype machine a bit too early, here's a preview...

One of the country's top stand-ups may be there to compete. In her hometown, no less.

No, telling jokes in front of brick walls has not been made an exhibition sport for the '96 Games (actually, it's one of the few pastimes that hasn't when you think about it). Pam Stone, known for her recurring role as Judy Watkins in ABC's "Coach," is seriously training to go for the gold as an equestrian.

Underline the word S-E-E-I-O-U-S-L-Y. This is not a joke. Stone only appears on six episodes of "Coach" per season and hits the stand-up trail two weekends each month. That leaves plenty of time for what she readily admits is her true passion.

"I prefer to be working with my horse, actually," said Stone last week before heading to the "Coach" set for the day's rehearsing. "It works out

See STONE, 6B

AT THE MIKE

"Opera Man World Tour 1994"... His comedy album "they're all gonna laugh at you" isn't exactly a huge hit, but Adam Sandler is one of the hottest comic talents around today. You'll find his characters on "Saturday Night Live," like Cajun Man and Opera Man represent his best work. On stage, he mixes some good parody songs with a lot of sophomoric, anatomical stuff. Perhaps that's why Sandler chose to appear at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor on Saturday, March 5, as part of the University of Michigan's Greek Week activities. Show time is 8 p.m., and tickets are available at the Michigan Union and all Ticketmaster outlets, or by charge by calling 763-TKTS.

Green Beer and Belly Laughs... You don't have a chance to see Kevin Pollak in comedy clubs much anymore. He's been too busy starring in films like "A Few Good Men," "Indian Summer" and "Wayne's World 2." He did a cameo as the guy with the wacky eyes at the City of Aurora Parks Department. His act is loaded with great material and dead-on impressions. His "Star Trek" bit in which he recasts major celebrities as the crew, is worth the price of admission alone. Catch Kevin at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle March 17-19. Call (810) 542-9900 for reservations.

P.S. Sources close to The Second City-Detroit indicate that the troupe's second revue, the follow-up to "Power to the People Mover," will premiere around mid-March. Watch for more details.

— Bob Sadler

New tunes: Beyond the 'biggies'

■ When thumbing through those music-store bins, you have to get past plenty of national acts before you stumble on the lesser-known groups. But once you do, you can find some good — and some not-so-good — regional sounds.

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Albums by regional bands are generally overlooked when national acts like Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam and Guns 'N' Roses have new albums. So, for those of you wondering where the new, here's a look at a few of those releases:

"Hoarts and Bones and Voices," Pet Engine: The overriding theme on "Hoarts and Bones and Voices" is being something that you're not. What Pet Engine is is a gold mine waiting to be discovered. Fans of Best Kissers in the World, The Posies or The Replacements will dig this Milwaukee band, formerly known as Blackfish. Matthew Schroeder's guitar assault drives the 10-song CD along with vocalist and fellow axman Stephen Ziel.

Literally, the quartet — which also includes bassist Clem Bland and drummer Daniel Anders — isn't kidding as I knock on the wood of the cross that you carry like a bulb that's planted. A bulb that never grows.

The album closes on a tender note with the acoustic ballad "Universe" during which Ziel is joined vocally by The Posies' Ken Stringfellow. Get this record and tell all your friends you had it before they were "big."

"Hoarts and Bones and Voices" is available through Don Records, P.O. Box 11613, Milwaukee, WI, 53211, (414) 224-9023.

"The Emma Peel Sessions," The Pretty Green: The follow-up to "Pansheecake" doesn't stray far from the Warren-based band's influences of British pop and pure American rhythm guitar rock.

The band doesn't waste time with flowery lyrics, instead opting to be honest and to the point. In "Virtue" lead singer Dave Goulette asks for relief from emotional pain: "Let's pray the world will end today or something that will make me feel OK." The four-song EP ends with a live recording of "I Stand to Reason."

The cassette version of "The Emma Peel Sessions" includes The Pretty Green's cover of the Goo Goo Dolls' "There You Are." Both live recordings are rough but it captures the essence of The Pretty Green's live show.

"The Emma Peel Sessions," recorded at Soundcamp Studios in Macomb County, is available on cassette and vinyl through Lemon Jello Records, 11515 Hanford Drive, Warren, MI 48093, or by calling (810) 588-9617.

"Swollen," Yardbass: Lead singer Marty Conselyea's choppy lyrical phrases sometimes makes it difficult to follow the lengthy songs. But his throaty growl on top of thundering guitars by Nick Sokolowski and Greg Savella and Rico Grazzoli's powerful drumming carry this CD above others by local rockers. Bassist Todd Poccobello brings his musicianship to the forefront with the song "Sticks & Stones," the obvious hit on "Swollen."



'Higher' ground: The Rochester Hills-based band Higher — Tom Leach (from left), Michael Alexander, Randy Martin and Michael Falzon — recently released a self-titled debut EP.

STREET BEATS

The CD, recorded at Studio A in Dearborn Heights, is available at most independent record stores or through Hole in Your Heart Productions, P.O. Box 371, Dexter, MI 48130.

"Drain-O," Mr. X: "Drain-O" is a highly underrated fast-rocking record by Mr. X, a.k.a. the Junk Monkeys' Glynn Scanlan, and his band Drain-O. Filled with more hooks than a fisherman's tackle box, "Drain-O" tears through 10 songs recorded at the Tempermill studios in Ferndale. It also features guests like The Exceptions' horns section ("Toledo"), and fellow Junk Monkeys David Bierman ("Pain") and "Hyper" and Dave Boutette ("Toledo"). A bonus track on the cassette is a live recording of "Suburban Life," a song by Mr. X's former band The Idiots.

Don't let this one slip by. "Drain-O" is available by calling Bam Boom Graphics in Dearborn at (313) 563-2897.

"Forehead Stew," Forehead Stew: "Forehead Stew" calls itself a "disruptive rock band producing anti-social music of little value." There's plenty of value in this single, especially in the A-side "Water." Jeff Fowler's booming drums and Matt McGuire's hypnotic guitars kick off "Water" followed by Al Sutton's gut-wrenching, over-compensated vocals. With bass lines by Andy Sutton topping off the song, speed metal fans should rank Forehead Stew high on their priority list.

On the flipside, Al Sutton's vocals are so convincing that it's easy to feel his frustration in "React"... I step out of line, but you push me back in place. Frustration and anger let me out. It's always the same. All the games they play. Let me out. Let me out.

Many hands in this genre, fall victim to hookless songs. However, Fore-

head Stew listeners will be helplessly drawn in with "Water" and "React," which was featured in John Freeman's snowboarding video "Demented Chondroitin Pilots."

The vinyl-only single is available through Rust Belt Records, 1145 Griswold St., Detroit, MI 48226.

"The Nothing Like Vaudeville Show," The Nothing Like Vaudeville Show: This 10-song concept album tells the story of a "strangely deformed boy" who runs away from home. The bumpy road, on which he is introduced to drugs and a short-lived love affair, eventually leads him to an evil Ringmaster's Freakshow where the child is one of the top attractions.

The song "Mr. Hyde" explicitly describes the boy's newfound friend: "Lurking in the shadows, don't need a disguise. Evil in my blood, Evil's in my eyes. Step into my parlor, I'll take you for a ride. No, I'm not the doctor. Call me Mr. Hyde." His parents find their son and when confronted about his job he says, "The Ringmaster told me that God made me a Freak for everyone to enjoy."

Abrasive guitars and eerie keyboards lead "The Nothing Like Vaudeville Show," which is one of the few concept albums that works. "The Nothing Like Vaudeville Show" is also an appropriate vehicle for lead vocalist Michael Jones to prove he has a tremendously versatile voice. Imagine Fantasia meeting The Who's "Tommy" and that's what "The Nothing Like Vaudeville Show" is all about.

The 10-song cassette is available by reaching the band at 6282 Mill Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio, 44147.

"Bermuda Mohawk," Bermuda Mohawk: This five-song debut concentrates on the raw-side of Bermuda Mohawk. Recorded primarily at PR Music in Detroit, the self-titled cassette intertwines the band's blues, country and rock influences with Sai D'Agillo's raspy voice.

The cassette is available through Whirlwind Records, 627 Lloyd Ave.,

Royal Oak, MI 48073.



"Higher," Higher: The band's self-titled effort doesn't take rock to new heights. The six-song EP, however, does serve as an adequate introduction to the Rochester Hills-based band's bass heavy, straightforward rock'n'roll.

Although the lyrics are predominantly simple, the song "Rise" possibly offers insight into the quartet's outlook of their musical future: "We've got to rise (higher) one way or another." For starters, the band recorded at the prestigious Pearl Sound Studio in Canton Township, and is discussing future plans with LA record producers.

While it seems as if lead vocalist/guitarist Michael Alexander is uncomfortable in the recording studio, the glossy album has laid a nice foundation for future releases.

The album is available at most independent record stores or through Genre Productions, 123 Canterbury Trail, Rochester Hills, MI 48309, or by calling (810) 375-0202.

"Electrify," HAL: These winners of the 1993 Modern Rock Jam at Detroit's State Theatre take listeners on a trip through the band's mind with its debut release "Electrify." Produced by Dave Feeny at Ferndale's Tempermill studio, "Electrify" blends elements of metal, guitar-driven rock, and industrial dance music to create HAL's slick sound.

The cassette opens with the Nine Inch Nails-esque "Pincushion" which sticks it to a former love, ("Sticking pins in my mind, a psychological voodoo doll."). Each of the remaining three songs — "Blown," "What Is This," and "Alten Eyes" — brings the band a step closer to patenting its sound. "Electrify" is also one of the few recent studio products that is as electric as the band's live show.

The cassette is available by contacting HAL at 1040 Larson Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48307, or by calling (810) 651-5555.

IN CONCERT

Items should be submitted two weeks in advance to: Christina Fuoco, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279.

Monday, Feb. 28

MARK MCQUEEN AND JILL KOVACH
Four Green Fields, 3333 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, (occasional)
(810) 206-2902

Tuesday, March 1

JOHN ZOBEL & CORRA
Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (avant-garde jazz)
(313) 663-6661

MAHLATIN AND THE MAHOTELLA QUEERS
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (Alt-rock)
(313) 781-1800

BRANDOS
With Spin Dance at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)
(313) 996-8555

Wednesday, March 2

REIN HARPER
Majic Song Theatre Cafe, 22918 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
(810) 844-3030

THE VIVRE PIPE
Give the National Anthem before the Detroit Pistons-Portland Trail Blazers basketball game at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 1-75 and Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills.
(810) 377-8200

METACORNER
With The Luxurians at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (rock)
(313) 996-8555

Thursday, March 3

SEINFELD TON
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock)
(313) 996-8555

CHRIS DUARTE
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield Road, Dearborn.
(313) 846-1920

RE JEWEL
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock)
(810) 588-1999

KELLING FLOOD
With 11th Hour at The Ritz, 17580 Farmo, Roseville, (bluesy rock)
(810) 778-6404

THE CHUCKLE SISTERS
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 781-1451

KISS ME SCHMAMMA
3-D, 1315 N. Main St., Royal Oak.
(810) 589-3344

"BLUES SUPERSESSION"
Featuring Mark Pesman, Bobby Olson and Robert Noll at the Dotsford Inn's Blues

Barn, Eight Mile Road and Grand River, Farmington Hills, (blues)
(313) 459-6669

Friday, March 4

CHRONIC BOOM
Lila's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, (rock)
(313) 812-6555

ROBERT NOLL
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (blues)
(810) 334-7411

THE MANHOLE
With Kiss Me Screaming at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (wildly large rock)
(313) 996-8555

BLUE-EYED SOUL
Psyche's Lounge, 2630 Canfield at Jos. Campus, Hamtramck, (rock)
(313) 874-6909

MARLA JACKSON
The Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (song)
(313) 832-5700

See IN CONCERT, 6B

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Street Scene next week:

- Christina Fuoco interviews local band Sweetfish and the up and coming Eve's Plum.
- John Monaghan takes a look at the movie scene.