

STREET SCENE

Fans go crazy when Solid Frog stalks them out

■ 'We do a lot of high schools just because the kids go crazy. We throw out CDs and T-shirts.'

Andy Patalan
Solid Frog

Fans of the Soline rock band Solid Frog should beware. Taking a cue from "Stalking '01," the first song on its latest album "Pepper Spray" (Overture), the band is out to stalk its listeners—and potential listeners.

Like stalkers, the band—bassist Jeff Hayes, drummer Mike Purcell, guitarist Kyle Neely, and singer/guitarist Andy Patalan—will show up anywhere to promote its album. It could be a high school, hockey rink, concert, or any other public place. It's called drive-by gigs.

"It just popped in my head," said Patalan, about coming up with the idea. "It was too easy not to do. I couldn't imagine doing anything more simple. Nobody has thought of it or has done it."

"I've seen the little garage

Solid Frog's latest effort, "Pepper Spray," is a more solid effort than its debut "Supercat," released in June 1995. The album homes in on Beatlesque melodies and clever lyrics ("I'm Bunn,"), driving guitars ("Stalking '01"), and eerie guitars and vocals that explode at the chorus ("Telluride").

"We decided to hone in on more of the specific sound we were really happy with 'Supercat.' We took that forward with 'Pepper Spray.'"

Besides drive-by concerts, Solid Frog is doing club dates. Patalan said he hopes the band can repeat its performance at Lollapalooza.

"That was a gas," Patalan said about his band's performance at the 1995 Lollapalooza at Pine

Knob Music Theatre. "It was a great time. We went on early and all the people were coming in at that time. None of the other stages were open so it was just perfect."

"We plan on actually doing it again. We hope to go on tour with Lollapalooza. If we don't get accepted, we're going to do it anyway with the drive-by. We'll just follow it around playing in all the parking lots and all the people in line," Patalan said.

Solid Frog will perform with Hi-Fi and the Roadburners, 9 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Harper's, 14238 Harper, Detroit. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call (313) 824-1700. The band also plays Sunday, March 9, at the Pharaoh's Golden Cup, 28959 Joy Road, Westland. For information about the show's time and age restrictions, call (313) 513-8536.

Miso: Brian Vander Ark, singer/guitarist for The Verve Pipe, and Jon Frazier of Station C in Grand Rapids are in the

studio producing the latest album by Monkey Chuck. "You can expect good old-fashioned MC with a few Vanderisms, such as screaming guitars and three-part harmonies," he said. Congratulations to The Verve Pipe, whose single "The Freshmen" debuted at No. 80 on Billboard's Top 100 Singles Chart. ... Barenaked Ladies will join the elite club of Jamie Walters, Donna Lewis, Fleming Lips, and Luther Vandross as artists who have had the honor of playing The Peach Pit on "Beverly Hills 90210." The Ladies will perform 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, on the Fox television show. ... April marks the release of "Under These Rocks and Stones" by Chantal Kreviazuk, and "Coming Up" by The London Suede. ... The ska band Buck-O-Nine has signed withTVT Records, best known for releasing Nine Inch Nails' debut album, "Pretty Hate Machine," and being the home to Gravity Kills. ... The Seahorses, the latest project by ex-Stone

Roses member John Squire, is recording its debut album "Do It Yourself" in Los Angeles. It should be released in early summer. The album will feature a track that Squire co-wrote with Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "Love Me and Leave Me," before the Seahorses' lineup was solidified. Besides Squire, who is the lead guitarist and principal songwriter, the band also includes singer/songwriter Chris Helme, bassist Stuart Fletcher, and drummer Andy Watts. ... Don't look for Kiss to return to Detroit any time soon. The closest the band is coming to Detroit is Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on April 10 and Toledo Sports Arena in Toledo on April 12. Call (810) 645-6666 for more information.

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SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-FILM for information. (\$6.50; \$4.25 matinees and seniors)

■ "Shine" (Australia - 1996). The story of David Helfgott, a concert pianist driven to the edge at an early age by his overbearing father. His ultimate success over adversity makes for an inspirational story.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 students)

■ "A Single Girl" (France - 1995). Mar. 7-9 (call for show times). Shot in actual time, the story finds a young woman on the first day of work after telling her boyfriend she is pregnant. Directed by Benoit Jacquot.

■ "Kiss Me, Stupid" (USA - 1964). 7 p.m. Mar. 10. Billy Wilder's once-despised black comedy now serves as a fitting tribute to Dean Martin, plays a Vegas lounge entertainer—named Dino—stranded in the home of an aspiring songwriter (Ray Walston) and his beautiful wife (Kim Novak) in the subtly named Climax, Nevada.

Magic Bag Theatre 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 644-3030 for information. (\$2)

■ "Fierce Creatures" (USA - 1997). 9:30 p.m. Mar. 12. The same team that brought you "A Fish Called Wanda" hopes to recreate that film's magic in the story of an attempt to increase attendance at a failing zoo. (\$2)

Main Art Theatre 118 N. Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted other-

wise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and showtimes. (\$6.50; \$4 students, seniors and matinees \$3 twilight)

■ "Kolya" (Czechoslovakia - 1996). This Oscar-nominated foreign film finds a marriage of convenience turn into a personal revolution for a middle-aged, down-on-his-luck collier.

■ "Mother" (USA - 1996). Albert Brooks returns to directing and starring in this comedy about a twice-divorced man who tries to come to terms with his mother (Debbie Reynolds) when he moves back in with her.

■ "Hamlet" (USA - 1997). Kenneth Branagh's latest version of the Shakespeare classic runs at its true length of nearly four hours (with intermission). But this shouldn't keep you away from the year's first epic film experience, a tour de force for star/director Branagh, who has compiled a most eclectic cast including Billy Crystal, Jack Lemmon, Kate Winslet, and Robin Williams.

■ "Waiting for Guffman" (USA - 1997). Christopher Guest, a member of the Spinal Tap, creates his own mock documentary about a small town in Missouri staging a sesquicentennial pageant. Guest wrote and directed the low-budget film, and even stars as Corky St. Clair, the high school drama teacher who helms the show with hilarious results. (Starts Friday)

Maple Theatre 4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 855-9090 for information. (\$6; \$2.95 twilight)

■ "Sling Blade" (USA - 1996). Billy Bob Thornton wrote, directed, and stars in this portrait of a middle-aged man released from

a mental institution after 30 years. He must somehow assimilate back into the community where he committed a grizzly murder. Nominated for best actor and screenplay honors, Thornton's first feature also boasts surprising performances from Dwight Yoakam and John Ritter.

Michigan Theatre 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397 for information.

■ "36th Annual Ann Arbor Film Festival." Mar. 11-16 (call for show times). The oldest film festival in North America picks the best of some 350 entries from around the world. They are shown nightly for audience and judge consideration before the winner's night on Sunday. (\$8 per screening; \$10 entire evening; \$35 series ticket)

Redford Theatre 13671 Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit. Call (313) 537-2550 for information. (\$5.25; \$4 US)

■ "Brigadoon" (USA - 1954). 8 p.m. Mar. 7; 2, 8 p.m. Mar. 8 (overture begins a half hour before showtime). Two Americans from Manhattan (Gene Kelly, Van Johnson) stumble across the fairy tale village of Brigadoon, which only materializes once every 100 years. Cyd Charisse co-stars. Windsor Film Theatre 2135 Wyandotte St. West, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM for information. (\$5.25; \$4 US)

■ "The Funeral" (USA - 1996). 9 p.m. Mar. 6-9. Abel Ferrara, the controversial director of "Bad Lieutenant" and "The Addiction," creates a Depression-era gangster story about brothers in the small-time protection racket



Radio DJ: Howard Stern portrays himself as a 1970s Detroit disc jockey in "Private Parts," opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

(Chris Penn and Christopher Walken) out to avenge the murder of their brother (Vincent

on a Parisian mother of two children who works afternoons as a

prostitute. (Presented by Kinotek Film Society)

TIM ALLEN

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Week March 7 - March 13

1) Larger Than Life (PG)

Week March 14 - March 20

2) The Adventures of... Pinocchio (PG)

Week March 21 - March 27

3) The Stupids (PG)

Week March 28 - April 3

4) Matilda (PG)

Week April 4 - April 10

5) Alaska (PG)

Week April 11 - April 17

6) Fly Away Home (PG)

STAR JOHNS John & L 14 Mile & L Madison Heights 515-2015	STAR LINCOLN PARK Southfield & L Lincoln Park 312-9740
STAR TAYLOR East & L 14 Mile & L Birmingham Square (at) 217-2200	STAR ROCHSTER 200 Barclay Circle (off Rochester & L near Adams & L) 613-2210
STAR WINCHESTER Rochester & L 14 Mile & L Winchester Mall 616-1140	STAR GRANT Grant & L 15 Mile Grant Twp. 771-3420

*All kids, 12 years old or younger, will be admitted FREE to any of the above films. Adult admissions are only \$1.