

STR

# On 'The Go': Detroit 5-piece ready for the road, stage

**'We're all a bunch of space bandits doing our own thing.'**

**Bobby Harlow**  
*The Go*

Pop Records, and released a debut CD. Now on tour with label-mates Nebula and Zen Guerilla, The Go is balancing a national tour and work on a second album. There's no stopping in sight.

### Going, going...

In 1999, "Whatcha Doin'" propelled The Go's music past live shows. "The first record was true Detroit rock 'n' roll. That was on purpose," said Harlow. "Suzy Don't Leave" and "Get You Off" is real Detroit rock 'n' roll."

Now working on a follow-up, Harlow said it's become more "like a concept record, without really going for a concept record." For someone with strong jazz influences, there's no telling where the band's music is going. "With the second record I think people will still be able to recognize we're all a bunch of space bandits doing our own thing."

Those are our space bandits, and they're proud of their hometown. "I think we're just really

raw," said Harlow. "It's a part of everything coming from Detroit."

### In the water

Be it rock, rap, hip-hop or blues, Detroit music shares a universal quality. It's just not clear what ties everything together. "It's something that got into the water, a sort of style that I'm really proud of," suggests Harlow.

Proud to be part of this rock subculture, The Go is taking the city back in time. References to Iggy Pop and the Stooges and the MC5 abound when The Go is onstage. And that doesn't really bother them. "The (MC) 5 made great music."

"We have good things in our music. That's why we sound the way we sound. We know about R&B. It's in our blood."

### Addictive

The Go, with its abrasive, crunching guitars, intentionally muddy vocals and attitude to spare, is ready to get back on the

road. "Playing every night, it's a real addiction," said Harlow. "I come back from the road and start to really miss playing."

"People are responding really well to us in other cities. The first tour we played (shows) to a maximum of 100 people. This time we've been selling out."

Harlow has his own aspirations for the future of The Go. And they're sky-high. "I hope The Go turns everyone on with purist rock 'n' roll, the roots of rock 'n' roll being Chuck Berry."

Is that too much to wish for? Naah.

As our conversation winded down, Harlow headed into the brisk, windy Michigan evening.

He rushed off to visit his grandmother, Connie Orders, who owned a flower shop in Birmingham.

I ask you, how rock star is that? Go out and see The Go when they stop home on tour with Nebula and Zen Guerilla, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30, Magic Bag, Ferndale. \$8 in advance. Call (248) 544-3030.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (248) 953-2130 or e-mail at ecasola@ec.homecomm.net.



Getting the green light: The Go, fronted by Bobby Harlow, are back in town on a Sub Pop showcase tour.

By Pop Records



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

Bobby Harlow bounces up to the table in a hurried fashion and catches me off guard. It's just after 4 p.m. and the Royal Oak restaurant is still quiet, only the monotone sound of CNN hums behind me. Harlow - chestnut-haired singer of the Detroit-based five-piece, The Go - sheepishly admits he woke up around 3 p.m. and rushed to meet me for his first-ever in-person interview. Surely it's the first of many for The Go, a band that has quickly risen high above Detroit's rock underground. The name suits them well. Harlow and bandmates John Krautner and Dion Fischer (guitars), Marc Follis (drums) and Steve Noire (bass) made the fast track to the local music scene. Playing their first official gig at the Magic Stick in Detroit - a dream for most local musicians - The Go got off to an envious start. In just more than two years, the band established a reputation for its "must-see" live performances, recorded one demo, signed with Seattle's Sub

## STAY TUNED...

When it comes to debuting in Detroit, Rev can do it up right. The band, featuring former Plain bandmates singer-guitarist Todd Price, bassist Mike Dolant and ex-Sponge drummer Charlie Grover, opened a fiery set for Lit March 15 at Saint Andrews Hall and left the audience reeling for more. Not knowing quite what to expect, the crowd was met with unbridled energy, tight, smashing rhythms

and melodies that stick long after the chords fade.

According to the Motor City Music Foundation, the 2000 Detroit Music Awards is shaping up to be a star-studded event, with Kid Rock and Twisted Brown Trucker set to host. At 7:30 p.m. April 14, Detroit's State Theatre will open its doors to a limited number of ticketholders and raise money for the Rainbow Connection

and the Motor City Music Foundation.

Performers on the bill include Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, The Contours, a reunited Rhythms Corps, Paradise, Johnny Rodriguez & The Flery Latin Jazz Band, Barbara Payton and house band Howling Diablos. Nominees will be honored in 11 categories and Distinguished Achievement Awards will be given to The Contours, The Frost, and the late radio personality Dave Dixon. See [detroitmusicawards.com](http://detroitmusicawards.com) for more information.

—By Stephanie Angelyn Casola



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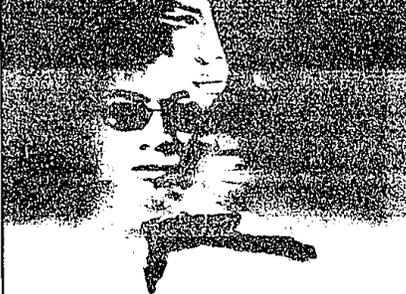
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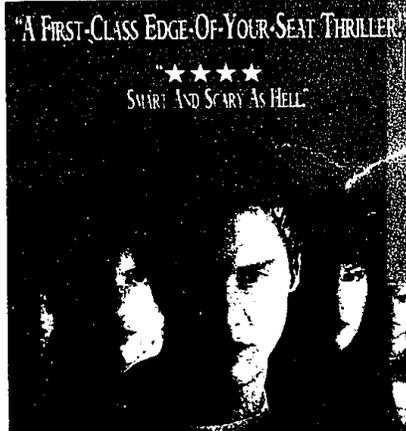
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